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THE AUTHOR.

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HISTORY  
—OF—  
FORT FAIRFIELD  
—AND—  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES,  
—WITH—  
ILLUSTRATIONS,  
—BY—  
C. H. ELLIS.

FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE,  
FORT FAIRFIELD PRINTING CO.,  
1894.



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## PREFACE.

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We have endeavored in this history to give the facts, covering an early period, for which we have depended almost entirely upon verbal accounts given by the first settlers. To the largest possible amount of such information carefully compared and made reconcilable with itself, we have always given preference to written accounts, whether of personal or public interest. And so far as public records have covered the ground, this history will be found in perfect accord with them.

THE AUTHOR.





## INTRODUCTION.

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Upon my return from the West, after an absence of more than a quarter of a century, I found many of the old landmarks removed, and matters of interest which had come under my personal observation radically changed, or entirely left out of the unwritten history of Aroostook. With the fact before me, that very soon important events, without which a history of our town would be both unsatisfactory and incomplete, would be beyond the reach of the historian, I commenced preparing a series of articles for the *Northern Leader*, under the title of "THE HISTORY OF FORT FAIRFIELD," with the intention of subsequently publishing them in book form.

That portion of the history prior to 1843 has been compiled from the most reliable unwritten authorities obtainable, together with so much written record as could be obtained; from 1843 to 1860 by personal observation, and so much written information as was obtainable from private and official records; from 1860 to the present date, only, have we been able to depend upon official records.

C. H. ELLIS.

Fort Fairfield, January, 1894.



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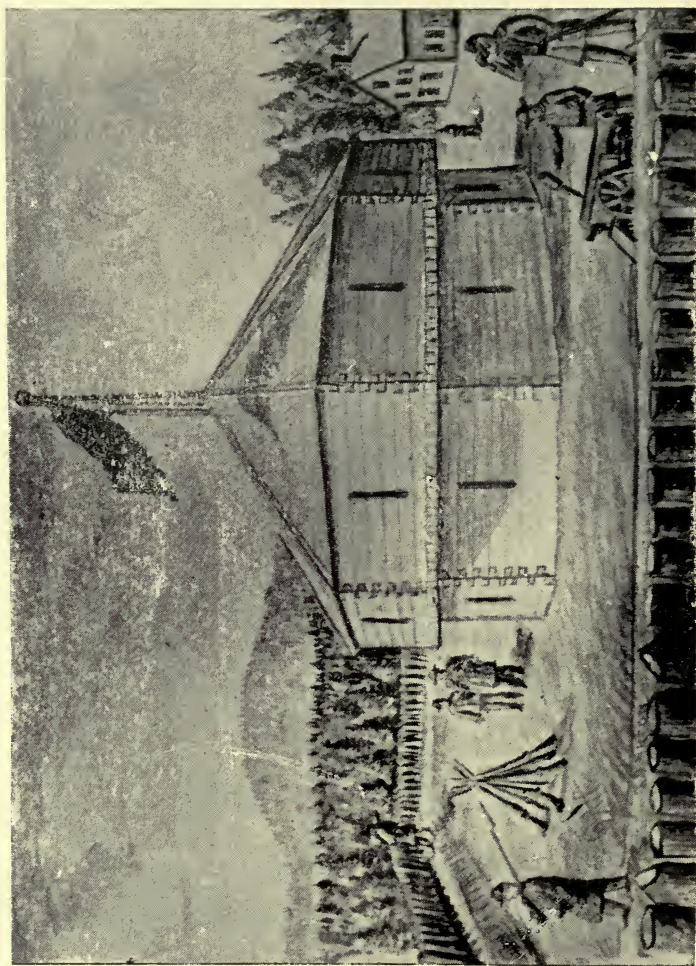
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FORT FAIRFIELD IN 1844.

# HISTORY OF FORT FAIRFIELD.

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## CHAPTER I.

### LOCATION.

In 1783 peace was declared between Great Britain and the thirteen united colonies, and the United States became a nation.

The St. Croix river became a part of its eastern boundary. At its headwaters a monument was erected under the treaty of 1794, and the boundary line was to run due north to the highlands; but whether to the highlands between the waters of the St. Lawrence and the waters that run south, or between the waters of the St. John and Penobscot rivers, subsequently became a question for dispute.

By the terms of this treaty a territory nearly as large as the five New England states, and lying east of the State of New Hampshire and known as the District of Maine, was organized as a part of the State of Massachusetts.



The first legislation that materially affected the interests of this territory was the action of the Massachusetts General Court, by which large grants of land were made, to aid local enterprises. Among these was a grant to the town of Plymouth of thirty-six square miles. This grant was run out by Park Holland, a State surveyor, in 1806, who was ordered to proceed to the monument upon the headwaters of the St. Croix river, and to run due north fifty miles, and then survey a township of land six miles square, which was to be given to the town of Plymouth to aid in building a breakwater to protect their harbor. Soon after establishing the southeast corner of the township, Mr. Holland discovered (if he was not the first discoverer) the Aroostook river, and in running out this township he crossed the river four times.

We are unable, with any degree of reliability, to fix the date of the first settlement in the present town of Fort Fairfield.

Michael Russel was undoubtedly the first to locate. His settlement was upon the south side of the Aroostook river, a short distance this side of the boundary line, and within the limits of Holland's survey of Plymouth Grant.

James FitzHerbert is given the credit of being the next settler. He located at the mouth of the brook, known on Sawyer's survey of Letter D, Range 1, as FitzHerbert's brook. The next, on

the same side of the river, was John Dorsey, and the next Benjamin Weeks, who located at the mouth of what is known by the above-named survey, as Johnston's Brook. We know of no reason for giving their location in the order named, except it would be natural to take the first vacant land when one was so far from civilization. These settlers, together with others farther up the river, were here early in the twenties, if not before 1820. Before 1830, Benjamin McLaughlin, J. William White, Samuel Davenport, William Lovely, Alexander McDougald, Peter Fowler, Margaret Doyle, John Twaddle and William Turner had all settled along the river banks, and very soon after Anthony Kean, Daniel Turner, Thomas Sutherland, David Burtzell, J. W. White, Charles Walton, William Bishop, Amos Bishop, Daniel Bishop, Daniel McLaughlin, Martin Murray, Thomas Whittaker, Robert Whittaker, Thomas Rogers and James Rogers. Before 1840, Thomas Amsden, James Campbell, James Guiggey, Justis Gray, Joseph Davenport, Richard McCarty, Thos. Gibner, Thomas Boulter, Job Everett, John Lovely, Patrick Finland, David Buber, Charles Buber, William Houlton and William Upton, had all made settlements upon the banks of the river, within what is now the town of Fort Fairfield. Benjamin Weeks had erected a larger and more substantial house upon the beautiful site now occupied

by Mr. Thomas A. Fisher's fine residence. In that year he exchanged his property with William Johnston for a farm at the head of the "Reach," upon which he located in 1834 or 1835.

At the time Mr. Johnston came to the Aroostook, his brother-in-law, Thomas Sutherland, was located near the mouth of Lovely brook, as known by the survey already referred to, and their family relations had much to do with the spotted line and removal of the underbrush to the head of the Reach, that afterwards became a regular portage, and shortening the distance many miles from the river line. His brother, Lewis Johnston, was then living upon the north side of the river, nearly opposite the mouth of the Presque Isle stream.

Up to 1838 the principal business open to the settlers and depended upon by them for a living, was cutting the pine trees and manufacturing them into square timber and floating them down the river to Frederickton and St. John, from whence they were shipped to England to supply their lumber market.

In 1820 Maine became an independent state, and the question of her northeastern boundary began to be agitated. As the fact became generally known that lumber was being taken from her public lands and being shipped to a foreign market, dissatisfaction increased, until the breaking out of hostilities in 1839.

This, for a time, checked their business, but as they were nearly all dependent upon it for the support of their families, they succeeded in evading the boom that had been placed across the river, and the agents sent to watch over and prevent trespassing.

These early settlers nearly all came from homes on the St. John river and recognized no authority except that derived from the English crown. Some of them held their land by patents derived from that authority, while others were located and claimed their rights under the since popular, but to them, unknown doctrine of squatter sovereignty.

Such was the situation and condition, when, in 1838, Governor Fairfield sent an agent to look over the situation and report as to the lumber operations that were being carried on by Provincial lumbermen. And the conditions remained unchanged, when, in February, 1839, Land-Agent McIntyre with his posse of Maine militia-men, arrived upon the scene. At that time the only travelled roads in Aroostook county were a road from Patten to Masardis, the military road from Mattawamkeag to Houlton, and a road as far north as Monticello. Roads had also been cut among the trees, through which a sled could be hauled from the St. John river to FitzHerbert's brook, and from the mouth of Lovely brook to the head of the Reach. The one, to escape the Aroostook falls and rapids, and



the other to shorten the distance of the great bend in the river.

So far as business or social relations were concerned, these people were as completely isolated from all parts of our State, as any of the inhabitants of the northeastern part of our sister Province. And not until the posse and troops had been followed by actual settlers, and homes had been made and social relations formed, was it possible for the prejudice, that the policy toward their trespass upon the lumber had caused, to be removed.

The coming of the posse and the United States troops, and the policy adopted in regard to trespass timber, created a prejudice that required the coming of actual settlers, the making of homes, the forming of social relations, and intermarriage to wholly remove. The promptness with which their descendants responded to "Father Abraham's" call for "300,000 more" obliterated the last particle of prejudice, and united this young and struggling community in social and loyal mass, with one country and one flag.

While Massachusetts had asserted her rights to the northeastern territory, by making a survey and granting lands north and west of the monument at the headwaters of the St. Croix river, the language of the treaty of 1794 and the interpretation given it by parties occupying different



standpoints, had given rise to considerable feeling between the inhabitants of Maine and those of the province of New Brunswick. In fact it was difficult to reconcile the wording of the treaty with existing conditions.

And when we come to consider the embittered feelings that would naturally grow out of two wars, we shall not be surprised at the readiness that existed to resist the first act of aggression.

It was enough for the inhabitants of Maine to know that the pine timber was being cut from the public lands and run down the river to the English market.

The question as to who was doing it, was not taken into consideration. The fact alone that the Provincial government could directly or indirectly be made a party to the transaction was enough to call for armed resistance.

As soon as the fact became fully established, that lumbering operations were being carried forward, the entire inhabitation of the State were aroused to open resistance.

A draft was made upon the State militia and the drafted men were promptly sent to arrest the trespassers and take possession of the disputed territory in the name of the State.

This action as a matter of course aroused the people in New Brunswick, and the sentiment became general, that force should be met with force.

The land agent, who was among the first upon the ground, was arrested and taken to Frederickton. The militia men fell back as far as Masardis.

The State sent forward additional men, and a stand was made upon the bank of the Aroostook river some six miles from a provincial settlement upon the St. John river.

Active preparations were made to stop the cutting and hauling of the timber, and to prevent that already cut from being taken to market.

Soon after the arrival of the last of the drafted men, an order was received to muster out the entire force, and enlist volunteers, who in addition to bearing arms, should engage in such manual labor as the State required of them.

Upon the arrival of this military force in the winter of 1839, they found active lumbering operations going on along the banks of the Aroostook river for several miles above the mouth of the Presque Isle, and from the townships of letter C. (Easton) and Mars Hill, pine timber was hauled to the St. John river in New Brunswick.

The work of building a boom across the Aroostook river was commenced, and scouting parties were sent out to arrest trespassers and confiscate their teams and supplies.

The position occupied by these soldiers was of a most embarrassing nature. Their mission here,





THE UPPER BLOCKHOUSE.



THE COLLINS HOUSE.

was to break up the business of these settlers, and by so doing to destroy their living. While it was neither expected nor desirable to drive them from their homes, their presence was a constant menace. Their ability to give information to our enemies, and the almost positive assurance that their sympathy would lead them to do so, together with the possibility that a large armed force was near at hand, kept up a constant unrest on the part of the soldiery. To-day it can only be looked upon as a mystery, that under such circumstances, actual hostilities did not lead to bloodshed along the entire border.

The drafted men consisted of two distinct classes. One, and the larger class, home cares and responsibilities made their soldier life most distasteful, and it was a happy day when the order came for their discharge. The other class of active, enterprising, fearless young men were only too glad to exchange their present position for more work and better pay in the volunteer service.

Of the second class there was all and more than the state required to carry forward the work to a successful termination,



## CHAPTER III.

## PERMANENT POSSESSION.

The organization of a military working force was the carrying out of the plan to hold possession of the disputed territory. As soon as fortifications were established, and formal possession taken in the name of the State, the volunteer forces were employed in constructing a road through the wilderness to connect them with the United States forces, stationed at Hancock barracks, in Houlton.

The township lying south of the one in which the fortifications were erected, belonged to Massachusetts, and for the double purpose of passing over land owned by the State and keeping as far as possible from the St. John river, from which point annoying forces could be sent out, the road was laid out in a south of west direction to Presque Isle, and from there to Monticello and Houlton.

This road through its entire distance passed over valuable settling lands, covered with a heavy growth of timber, with a rich, alluvial soil, upon which the vegetable mould of ages had supplied a vast amount of plant food. The great contrast between this and the rocky, sterile and gravelly land of the southern portion of the State was a constant reminder to these men of the possibilities of this new land; and as the work of construction progressed, many a choice piece of land was selected for a future home. And these men, together with those who came through their influence and representations, comprised largely the pioneer settlers of this and adjoining towns.

In the survey of Letter D, Range 1 (the south half of Fort Fairfield), the land along this road was cut up into lots with only eighty rods frontage, so as to give the largest possible number of settlers a chance for location.

As a matter of course, this was the first located and settled land in the town, except that bordering on the Aroostook river.

It may well be claimed that the volunteer forces were the actual pioneers, and to them more than all others is due the credit of bringing to its full fruition, the second stage of improvement—actual settlement. In 1842 all the land in this town along the road had been taken up, and among these settlers were found the names of Jonathan Hopkinson,

Daniel Palmer, Benj. D. and Otis Eastman, —Braddon, Levi Hoyt, William, Orrin and E. P. Whitney, Edward Johnston, Chase, Hunt, Tucker, Lyons, Houlton, Wing, Pattee, Waite and Richards.

The volunteer force had been succeeded by a company of United States troops and a building (the same that is now occupied by Dr. Decker) was erected for officers' quarters, and the foundation really laid for the present village of Fort Fairfield.

The Webster-Ashburton treaty had been ratified, the commissioners appointed to run the boundary line; and in the summer of 1843, the United States troops were withdrawn and the property placed in charge of General Mark Trafton, who had been appointed a custom house officer for the place.

The boom which had been placed in the river to hold trespass timber, had been sold to a company chartered by the British Parliament and removed to the mouth of the Aroostook in New Brunswick for the peaceful purpose of holding the lumber, so that it could be made up into rafts before it was run down the St. John river to market.

A dam had been built across the Fitzherbert brook and a sawmill erected, the firm of Pattee and Haywood formed, a store opened and a house built, and the new enterprise christened the "lower village."

The young men who had come for war, began

to engage in the peaceful enterprise of securing wives and making homes, and of this class the names of Whitney, Stevens, Waite and Richards, deserve a prominent position.

With the removal of the soldiers in the summer of 1843 the transition was complete; the war record had closed and the opening up of the new settlement was fully established. The land lotted out was in the hands of local agents; permits for cutting timber were granted by the State and stumpage collected.

And the reports sent out by the settlers brought many additions to their number.

## CHAPTER IV.

## PIONEER LIFE.

From the landing of our Pilgrim Fathers upon the rock-bound coast of New England until the present time, the sturdy, persevering, self-sacrificing pioneer, whether seeking freedom to worship God, laying a broader foundation for a mighty empire, strengthening political freedom, or seeking a home for self and loved ones, has had privations, hardships and sufferings that make him worthy of praise and admiration. And those who laid the foundation for our beautiful, prosperous Aroostook homes, deserve as a record of their heroic deeds a monument more enduring than the imperishable rocks of the everlasting hills. The heroes of 1840 who started out on a six to ten days' journey, four of which were into an almost unbroken wilderness, and who pitched their camps a full one hundred



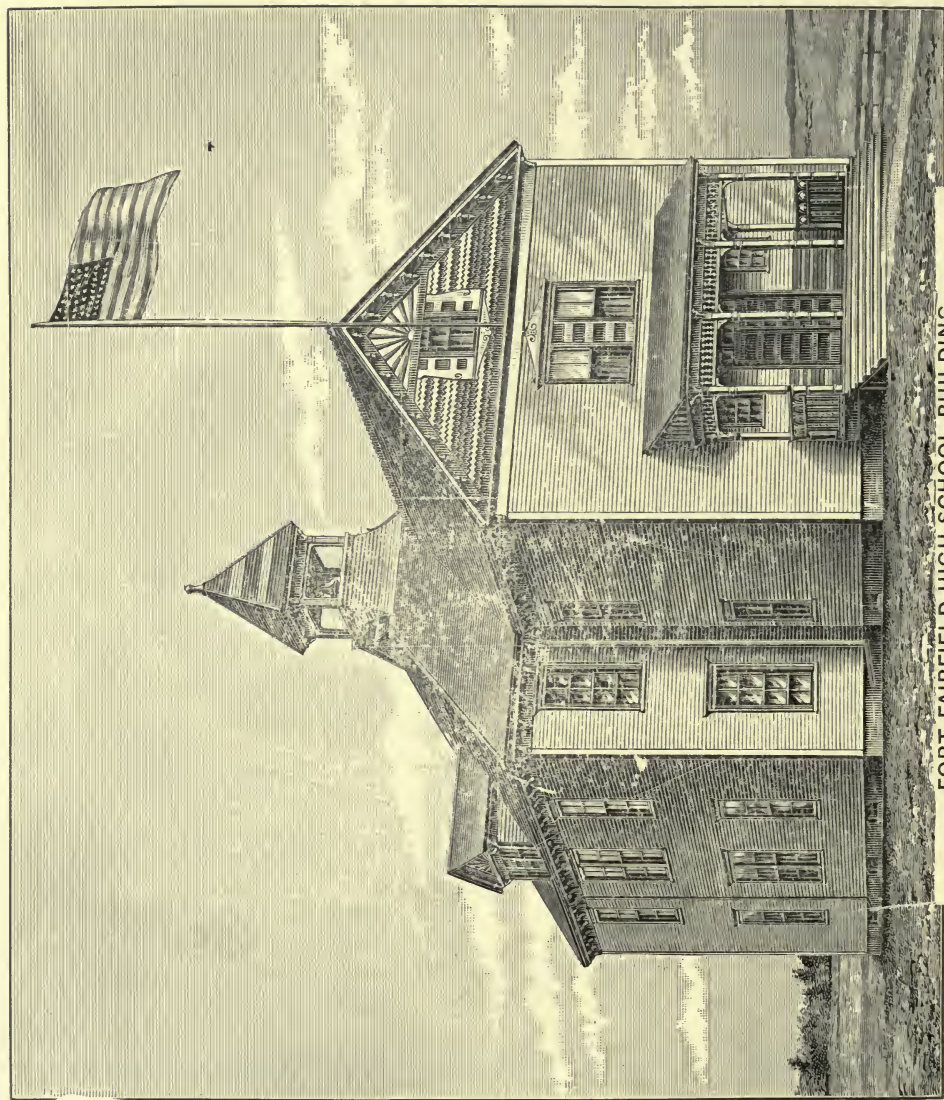
and sixty-seven miles from the base of supplies, have nearly all finished their work, and exchanged the comforts and blessings of homes secured by their sturdy toil, for the rest and blessings of the unseen land. Among those deserving (if not the most deserving) of mention in this class, are Levi Hoyt, Jonathan Hopkinson, William Whitney, Daniel Palmer, Benjamin and Otis Eastman, Henry C. Currier, E. P. Whitney, Hiram Stevens, Freeman Ellis, Jr., Edward S. Fowler, Isaac F. Ellis, Addison Powers, and Leonard Spooner.

The coming of these men introduced a new element into the then northeast settlement. Those here before them had located upon the banks of the river, and were almost as much at home in the swift-gliding canoe as upon solid land. Timber was cut upon the shores; and taking it to the market, and the return home with the fruits of their toil, had relieved them of much of the toil and privations that were to be the lot and experience of those who came from other walks in life, and located away from the river, in the deep, dense forest, and made homes and farms upon new land from which their labor and toil cleared away the forest, to raise the bread for their young and dependent families. The clearing of the land was a work that is hard to be understood from any point of observation attainable at the present day. Three and often four days' work was required to fall the trees

upon a single acre, and one day more to "lop the limbs" off the fallen trees so as to secure a good burn. Trees cut down in June and July were ill prepared to burn by the last of August, or first of September, but if left beyond that time there was danger of fall rains, and a loss of a whole year before the land could be prepared for crops. With small choppings, "only five acres in an opening" for the uncertain breezes of an August or September day to stir up the fire, it was the rule to get, if not to expect, a very poor burn, often no more than to burn the leaves and twigs and blacken the timber, and I have seen more than one instance when that was only partially done.

Then as much more work from these inexperienced men was taken to cut these trees into suitable lengths to be hauled together in "piles" for burning. Then three men and a yoke of oxen could be very busy from early morning to late at eve in hauling together, picking up and getting ready to burn the "heaps." Then a little waiting for them to dry and for the wind to blow, and the fires were set; then came the stirring up and rolling together of logs, the smoke and heat extending far into the night; then the waiting for the fires to go out, the heap beds to get cold; then came the hauling off of the brands, and the land was ready for the seed and harrow. The ages of the decaying leaves had formed a thick vegetable mould upon





FORT FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.



the ground that gave food to the growing crops, and the hearts of the honest toilers and their families were cheered by the rapidly growing crops. But the vast, dense forest shutting out the heat and sunlight by day, sent out a cold and chilling air by night, that, settling upon these small clearings, often brought the sad experience of an August frost to blight their hopes of an abundant crop, and doom them to another year of frost-bitten grain, which, after passing through the primitive mills of that day, brought forth a production that bore about the same relation to the beautiful "Snowflake" or "Calla Lilly" roller patent of to-day, that the darkest son of Ethiopia does to the fairest daughter of the Anglo-Saxon race. And it was not always that even such fare as that could be obtained in sufficient quantity. Money could not always be had, even to pay the postage on a long desired letter. A well built log house, plain clothing and simple substantial food, was a most desirable if not a satisfactory condition.

While there were hardships, privations and exposure, often, to cold and storm, sickness was comparatively unknown, aside from that incident to the new-born, that held no mean place in the additions to our increasing population; and then some motherly woman, with an experience gained by force of circumstances, mounted upon a horse led by someone, lantern in hand, along a bridle path or spotted



line through the wood, successfully filled the place of an experienced M. D. With the exception of the United States surgeon who was here with the company of United States Infantry and left in July, 1843, there was no regular physician and surgeon nearer than Houlton, and the roads were so bad it would have been a remarkable feat to get a doctor from there in twenty-four hours. This state of things continued for nearly ten years, and it was not until 1858 that a physician came who received sufficient encouragement to remain and build up a practice.

The great distance to market, necessitating expensive transportation, added in a great measure to the otherwise almost insurmountable obstacles that were to be overcome. But these brave men and women were equal to the task. They overcame every obstacle, they made for themselves comfortable homes, they built up a system of schools for their children, that laid the foundation for useful and influential lives. As the falling of the trees and clearing away the forest let in the sunlight and warmth, their industry, perseverance and integrity laid a moral and social foundation for the intelligence, happiness and prosperity of the present.

Wisely they selected, diligently they planted, and broadcast sowed upon a rich and fertile soil. And while we gather from their imperishable har-

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vest, it is meet and right that we remember their noble work, and raise to their memory monuments of praise.

## CHAPTER V.

## THE ORIGINAL TITLE.

The title to all the land in Fort Fairfield came originally from Massachusetts. Previous to 1819 Maine was the District of Maine and a part of Massachusetts.

June 19th, 1819, the legislature of that state passed an act, relating to the separation of the District of Maine from Massachusetts proper, and forming the same into a separate and independent state, when it should be accepted by the people of Maine. At that time all the public lands in Aroostook county, as well as in other counties in the State, except such as had been previously conveyed or contracted for by parties with Massachusetts, were equally divided between the two states. In that division of the land between Massachusetts and Maine, township D and after-

wards Letter D Plantation, and now the southern half of Fort Fairfield, became the property of Maine, and being an excellent township, suitable for settlement, was set apart in accordance with the laws of the State to be sold to actual settlers.

The township of Plymouth having at an earlier day been granted to the town of Plymouth, Massachusetts, by the legislature, was conveyed in 1807 to that town by deed. The following is a true copy, and will increase in interest as the years go by.

#### THE DEED.

To all people to whom these presents shall come, greeting: Whereas, the Legislature of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, did grant to the town of Plymouth, a township of land by a resolve bearing date the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and six.

Now, therefore know ye, that we whose names are undersigned, and seals affixed, appointed Agents by the General Court of Commonwealth aforesaid, by a Resolve passed the fifteenth day of March eighteen hundred and five; to make and execute conveyances, and by virtue of other powers vested in us by the same and other Resolves; do by these presents in behalf of said Commonwealth, assign, relinquish, and quitclaim unto the town of Plymouth, to be by them holden in their corporate capacity, for the use of said town, all the right, title, and interest of said Commonwealth, in and unto a track of land lying in the county of Wash-

ington, equal to the contents of six miles square as the same was surveyed by Charles Turner, Junior, Esquire, in the year eighteen hundred and seven. Bounded as follows, viz.: Beginning at a beech tree marked S. E. C. P. standing on the eastern boundary line of the District of Maine, fifty-five miles north of the source of the Schoodic Waters, and running north, thirteen degrees east, six miles to a fir tree marked sixty-one miles, thence running west thirteen degrees north, six miles to a stake, thence running south thirteen degrees west, six miles to a maple tree marked S. W. C. P., thence running east thirteen degrees south, six miles to the beech tree first mentioned, together with all the islands in those parts of the Aroostook river which are included within the aforesaid bounds, together with all the privileges and appurtenances, thereto belonging, excepting and reserving for the use of Commonwealth, and as a common highway forever, the main channel of said river Aroostook in its course through the said township, containing twenty-three thousand and forty acres, including the river Aroostook running through the same, as it will more fully appear on a plan of said township, now lodged in the office of the aforesaid agents.

To have and to hold, the aforegranted premises, to the said town of Plymouth, or their assigns, forever, on conditions however that the said Grantees, or their assigns, shall lay out and convey to each settler, who settled on said track before the first day of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-four, one hundred acres of land (in case of the settlers decease without assignment,



then to the heirs, and in case of assignment then to the assigns), to be laid out so as best to include the improvements of the settler, and be least injurious to the adjoining land, and that they shall settle in said tract, twenty families within six years, including those now settled thereon, and that they shall lay out in said township three lots of three hundred and twenty acres each, for the following uses, viz.:

“One lot for the use of the ministry, one for the first settled minister, his heirs and assigns, and one lot for the use of schools in said tract, the said lots to average in situation and quality with the other land in said township, to have and to hold the aforegranted premises to the said town of Plymouth or their assigns, on the conditions and reservations aforesaid, forever.

In testimony whereof, we hereunto set our hand and seal, this nineteenth day of December, eighteen hundred and seven.

JOHN READ, { L. S. }  
WM. SMITH. { }

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us:

GEORGE W. COFFIN,  
MOSES GREENLEAF.

SUFFOLK, SS.

BOSTON, 19th Dec., 1807.

Acknowledged before Joseph May, Justice of the Peace. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Land Office, Boston, 12th Jan., 1846.

This certifies that the foregoing Deed is a true copy of the record in this office, as found in Book No. 3, Page 273.

Attest:

GEORGE W. COFFIN,  
Land Agent for Mass.

While the deed sets forth that Charles Turner, Jr., made the survey, there are well attested documents showing that it was made by Park Holland, and it is to be inferred, that while Mr. Turner is the recognized authority, he deputized Park Holland, and that he really did the work.

In 1854 Ebenezer Hutchinson, Charles R. Whidden and Stephen B. Pattee were appointed commissioners to set off land to settlers who were in the township at the time of the Webster-Ashburton treaty in 1842, the land to include their improvements; similar to the act of Congress to quiet settlers on the public land.

We are unable to find any dates by which we can determine whether the town of Plymouth settled the special number of settlers upon the township or reserved and deeded the lots to the ministry and schools.

This township at an early day passed into the hands of proprietors who appointed an agent, lotted the land, and from them came the title deeds to settlers.

In so much of the town as was included in Letter D township, the settlers received their titles directly from the State.





THE WINDSOR HOTEL.

## CHAPTER VI.

## INCIDENTS OF THE WAR.

The first detachment of the drafted Maine militia-men having arrived at Masardis, they commenced their march down the Aroostook river upon the ice, to more active scenes of operation. It was not until they were a few miles above the mouth of the Presque Isle stream that the first trespassers were discovered, and then not until leaving the woods and getting on to the ice, a short distance ahead of the troops. Immediately a race commenced, but nothing was gained until after they left the river at William Johnston's place at the head of the Reach. The portage was rough and crooked around among the trees, and upon the up-hill grade the horses, wearied by the long race upon the river, could not be urged beyond a walk. Therefore the soldiers were able to run



on foot ahead of their own teams, and soon overtake and capture both of the lumber teams and the men. With these, the first prisoners of that bloodless war, they returned to the river and established their camp upon the north side nearly opposite Mr. Johnston's, now known as the Weeks place. An advance was soon made across the portage to the river, which brought them within the present town of Fort Fairfield. James Fitzherbert was able to afford the best shelter from the cold of an Aroostook winter, and therefore his house became a popular stopping place for the officers.

At this time Mr. Johnston sent his son, Warren A., to Tobique, (Andover) to Tibbett's mill with a grist. While the grist was being ground, boy like, he decided to take in the town, which consisted of a store and tavern and a few rude homes. While doing so he learned that a party was being organized to go to Fitzherbert's and capture the officers. As soon as his grist was ground he started for home with the intention of giving the alarm. Some of the organizing party suggested that such would be the case, and immediately they started after him. Warren was soon overtaken and told that he must return with them. The horse was taken from the sled and put into a stable, and the party returned to the tavern for another drink, and to perfect the organization. The boy watched the first opportunity and took his horse from the stable

and made another start for home. The organized party overtook him just as he gained the edge of Fitzherbert's opening, and succeeded in surprising them, and in capturing Land Agent McIntyre, and gave rise to the parody in which the oft repeated

“Run, Strickland, run ; fire, Stover, fire,”  
Were the last words of McIntyre,”

occurs.

The capture of McIntyre led to a falling back of the forces to Masardis, and Major Strickland, it is said, did not stop until he got to Bangor.

The second draft supplied additional troops, and the ground abandoned was re-occupied amid considerable excitement, and soon an agent of the Provincial government made his appearance, with authority from Governor Harvey to order all parties from the disputed territory, only to find himself a prisoner and a hostage for the safe return of Land Agent McIntyre. Governor Harvey of New Brunswick ordered out one thousand militia, and the legislature of Maine voted an appropriation of \$8,000 and the drafting of ten thousand militia. Revolutionary blood was up, and every indication pointed to open and sanguinary hostilities, when another actor appeared upon the scene.

The national government ordered General Winfield Scott, the hero of Lundy's Lane, to proceed to Maine and take command. With his staff, he arrived at Augusta, the capital of the State, and

took up his quarters at the Augusta House on the 5th day of March, 1839. He had thirty thousand United States troops at his command, but he was a man of peace, and at once set himself to work to bring about a cessation of hostilities. Governor Harvey of New Brunswick and Governor Fairfield of Maine were induced to withdraw their troops, exchange prisoners, and submit their dispute to arbitration.

While this was possibly the only war in which not a single battle was fought, it was not altogether a bloodless one.

After the militia was disbanded, a company of United States Infantry was stationed upon Fort Hill, occupying the blockhouse erected by the volunteer force after the militia was disbanded.

One morning after guard mounting, the relieved guards in discharging their muskets, shot a random ball in the direction of a small clearing, where Nathan Johnston, a brother of Mr. William Johnston, was at work reaping grain, and produced a wound from which he died that day.

It was not until the close of Martin Van Buren's administration, that active negotiations were entered into to settle the boundary question. The exciting political campaign of 1840, the defeating of the party that had controlled the affairs of government for many years, the death of General Harrison thirty days after his inauguration, all were

against taking up this question. But with the incoming of President Tyler's administration, with Daniel Webster Secretary of State, negotiations were opened which culminated in the Webster-Ashburton treaty; and in the summer of 1843 commissioners with a detailed force from the English and United States troops established the boundary and set up iron posts to mark the same as far as the St. John river.

That treaty settled the boundary line as far west as the Rocky Mts., and became the entering wedge to a line of policy that has since prevailed, and we trust ever will be maintained between this and the mother country on all questions of difference that may arise.

## CHAPTER VII.

## AROOSTOOK WAR IN HISTORY.

The dispute in regard to the northeast boundary of Maine, which culminated in calling out the State militia and building fortifications upon the Aroostook and Fish rivers, has been treated as a very insignificant affair, and more as a matter of ridicule than as one of heroic devotion to home, to State rights and national prestige, worthy of the descendants of the heroes of Bunker Hill, Ticonderoga, Saratoga, Yorktown and Trenton:

While each year adds to the importance and value of the possession, it should be remembered, that but for the courage and devotion, toil and privation and patriotism of these men, the British flag would now be flying over this entire region. If State action had not been taken, and State pride aroused, the strict wording of the treaty of 1793



might have shown to the authorities at Washington that all the tributaries to the St. John river were unquestionably British waters. But this action, together with the fact that as early as 1806 the State of Massachusetts had taken formal possession and located land far beyond such an imaginary line, became the strong points in our favor in the negotiation of the Webster-Ashburton treaty. Our State is worthy of all honor for the promptness with which she arose to the emergency, and the spirit in which she stood ready to maintain her rights.

A careful survey of the situation cannot but lead to a just appreciation of the patriotism and devotion of the men, who, at the call of the State, left home and loved ones and marched into the northern wilderness in the dead of winter, to where they were almost sure to meet a foe who would greatly outnumber them; to where they had good reason to believe and did believe that their going would result in open hostilities, and that the long and weary march through storm and snow, was to a camping ground in an unbroken wilderness far from civilization.

Their going forth to what one has been pleased to call a "bloodless war," was not a "mere pastime, free from hardship, exposure or danger," but to all the realities of a long, severe and dangerous campaign. They experienced all and more of the

realities of war, save the horrors of the battle-field, than many who were in the War of the Rebellion.

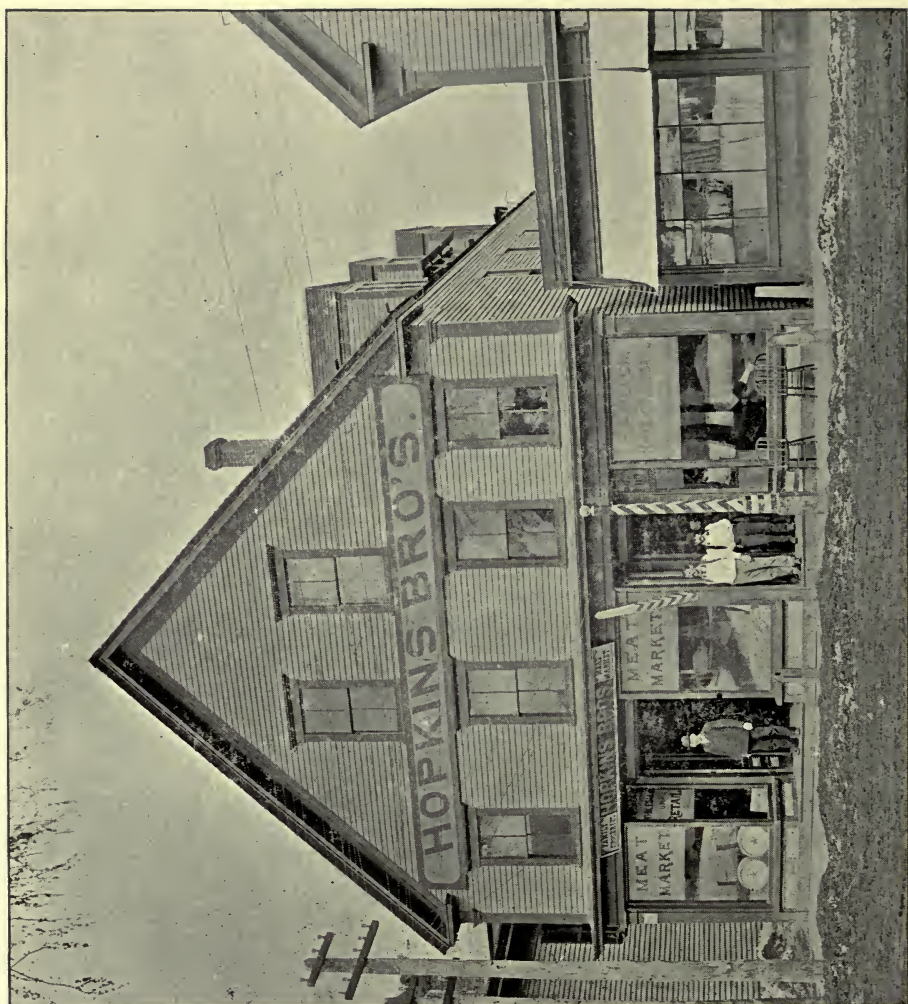
And many well trained soldiers will assure you that the terrible "What is to be?" was harder to stand up against than the actual conflict of the battle field.

More than one hundred miles into the wilderness and away from civilization these men went for warlike purposes, many a mile of weary march when no possible assurance could be given that the next hour or even minute would not bring them face to face with a hostile foe; as true soldiers always on the alert, ever watchful, always ready for the call to battle, and deserving of all the honor that would have been showered upon them if the call had really been made and the conflict had been long and sanguinary.

The obstacles in the way of reliable information, as to the action taken or movements of the Provincial government, or the exasperated settlers whose business had been broken up, placed their every movement at a great disadvantage. That they were not cut off from their base of supplies and compelled to surrender or perhaps wholly destroyed, can only be accounted for, from the reason that the opposing force was less courageous or less in earnest for the defence of the territory and their flag.

The readiness with which they volunteered after





being mustered out of the militia, and took upon themselves both the duties of the soldier and the common laborer, should not be forgotten. The building of fortifications, the making of State roads; the letting in of light, the sending out of good reports of the land; and the faithfulness with which many of them remained to develop and improve the country, deserve our highest praise.

When in the last Maine legislature a petition was presented asking that the soldiers of the Aroostook War be placed upon the pension roll, and the quiet and indifferent manner in which it was passed by became a matter of record, we were indeed thankful that in spite of the neglect and ingratitude of an ungrateful country, the consciousness of true devotion and heroic deeds brings its own reward.

More than half a century has passed since their heroic deeds became a part of the nation's history; and the stamp of approval placed upon them, through the establishment of our northeastern boundary.

While we contrast the valley of the Aroostook and upper St. John of to-day, with what it was fifty years ago, and then look forward to the transforming power of another fifty years, we may realize something of the great value of the bright jewel saved through their vigilance and devotion to the national domain.



## CHAPTER VIII.

## CAPTAINS IN THE WAR.

The first captain of whom we have any account, Stover Rines, was with Sheriff Strickland and Land Agent McIntyre at Fitzherbert's upon that memorable night when the first real experience of actual hostilities came to their view. If the land agent was the superior officer, he failed to "fire, Stover, fire," at his command. With that short experience he drops out of sight, so far as our town is concerned. Capt. Rines, however, has a record as commander of a company from Oldtown that remained at Fort Kent until 1840, when they were relieved by a company of United States troops. Capt. Rines subsequently entered into business at Fish River, and became an honored and influential citizen of that place.

The second in command was Capt. William Parrot, who was in command until September, 1839; then he returned to his home in Massachusetts.

Capt. George W. Towle was for a time in command of the volunteers, and in charge while building the upper blockhouse, and in the construction of the State road.

After being relieved of his command, Capt. Towle secured the beautiful interval at the mouth of the Presque Isle stream, and made a delightful home for those early days. In addition to his farming, he engaged extensively in lumber operations.

Capt. John B. Wing relieved Capt. Towle of his command, and for a time was the principal officer, and as a matter of course the biggest man in the new settlement that was gathering round the post. Capt. Wing was a man of considerable executive ability. He entered heartily into the development of the country, and was active and influential in securing a charter from the British Parliament and the United States government to hold the lumber at the mouth of the Aroostook river, for rafting before taking to St. John for sale.

Being engaged in the lumbering business, he saw the necessity for better transportation for short lumber around the Aroostook falls, and surveyed and commenced the construction of a railroad for that purpose.

In the winter of 1842-43 he returned to his former home in Piscataquis county, and after a very brief visit returned with one of Sangerville's beautiful maidens as his wedded wife.

Capt. Wing had unqualified faith in this county, and while outside in pursuit of a wife, he was hard at work to induce others to follow him to his new frontier home. Among the number that heeded his advice was Mr. Charles W. Doughty, who, with his young wife, a schoolmate of Mrs. Wing, returned with them. Subsequently a younger sister of Mrs. Doughty made them a visit at their new Aroostook home.

We shall never know how much special pleading it required, but we do know that our worthy townsman, John B. Trafton, Esq., was at that time a very promising young lawyer, and at his solicitations she decided to prolong her visit, and finally, not only to give up the idea of returning to the home of her childhood, but to abandon the honorable and respected name by which she had been proud to be called, and accept another, by which she has since been known, the light of his home and the worthy and devoted mother of his children.

Capt. Wing subsequently moved to Pennsylvania and engaged in lumbering upon the Susquehanna river. In 1841 he was succeeded in command by Capt. Van Ness of the regular army, who for two years was in command of a company of United States Infantry, stationed at the new United States post, and known as Fort Fairfield. The captain had seen service in the Florida war. By some his courage was questioned. The boys used to give

him the credit of being the active agent in the following incident:

The scouts had brought word that a large body of Indians was approaching, when the captain addressed his men and urged them to be brave and do their duty, but said he: "You no doubt will be overpowered and compelled to retreat, and as I am lame and cannot go very fast, I will start now!"

In 1843 the captain with his command was ordered to Eastport, and from there to the southwestern frontier, and became an active, and we believe, a useful, participant in the Mexican war.

With Capt. Van Ness, while stationed at Fort Fairfield, was Lieut. Ricketts, who, with his young wife, was greatly respected by the settlers. Lieut. Ricketts became a major-general in the War of the Rebellion, and did his country good service.

In the summer of 1889, the writer, with his wife, Mrs. A. C. Paul and Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hilton, made up a party to view the National Cemetery at Arlington Heights. Soon after entering the grounds, our attention was attracted by a beautiful monument, and we decided to leave the carriage and inspect it.

To our surprise we found that it marked the resting place of Major-General Ricketts of the United States Army; and, as if to remove all doubt as to identity, we read these words: "Who served as a lieutenant, at an early day, upon our Northeastern

Frontier.”

These men all had a place and worthily filled it in the early history of our town. With others, they did their part in bringing it to notice, in shaping its policy and laying the foundation for those who came after to enlarge and build upon.



## CHAPTER IX.

## A PIONEER SETTLEMENT.

In September of 1842, Mr. Freeman Ellis, Jr. and Deacon Edward S. Fowler, both of Sangerville, made a trip to the then new Aroostook country for the purpose of taking up State land and making homes. At that time they found all the desirable land along the State road taken up, and a settlement had been commenced on what was then known as the Centre line. E. P. Whitney and Sanford Johnston, who came from Kennebec county with one Hunt, (who had taken up the lot and built a house where A. I. Rollins now lives) had taken the lots, now owned by James Johnston and Mrs. Cummings, upon which they had felled twenty acres of trees; and Deacon Hiram Stevens had gone on beyond them and taken the two lots south and adjoining their land, upon which he had

felled five acres of trees. When Messrs. Ellis and Fowler arrived on the scene upon that September morning in 1842, they found a path bushed out to the Johnston and Whitney falling, and the fire had done its work so far as to burn the small brush and black the logs; and from there to Mr. Stevens' opening, which was in like condition, there was only a "spotted line." South of Mr. Stevens' opening was a small brook and a big cedar swamp. Through this swamp and along this line for a mile they travelled before deciding upon a location. Mr. Ellis took the two lots on the west side and Deacon Fowler passed over one lot and took the second one, upon the east side and adjoining Mr. Ellis' south lot.

With their decision made, to make homes for their families in the new country, and land located, they returned to Piscataquis county to arrange their business to make a start early the next spring. Soon after their return to Sangerville, Mr. Ellis commenced a correspondence with his brother, Isaac F. Ellis, who was then living in Fayette, the result of which was that he and his brother in law, Mr. Addison Powers, joined him the following March, and with his eldest son (the writer), started with two one-horse teams, for their new location. On his representations, they took the two lots directly south of his and Deacon Fowler's lots, and that summer felled forty-five acres upon the adjoining





THE JOSEPH PEARCE BLOCK.

four corners. Through Deacon Fowler's influence a young man by the name of J. W. P. Jordan had located south of Mr. Powers on the east side of the centre line, and felled five acres of trees, on what is now known as the Bryant farm. The fire was not done burning in the forty-five acres chopping, when J. Wingate Haines from Hallowell came to see the new country, and was so well pleased with this section of it, that he bought Mr. Freeman Ellis' claim and also took up the State lot between Deacon Steven's and Deacon Fowler's, making in one body four hundred and eighty acres. Mr. Ellis then went south of his brother, and took the west half of the six hundred and forty acre block running south to the town line. With Mr. Haynes came a young man by the name of George A. Nurse, who bought the Hunt, now Rollins, place, which then extended south one mile and joined the James Johnston farm. Young Jordan returned to Sangerville that year and sold his land to Mr. Leonard Spooner, who came with his family in the summer of 1844. Mr. Haines did not move his family until several years later, but in the mean time placed his brother upon the land, and having more means to do with, made large improvements, not only upon that land, but erected a sawmill on the brook, which was a great help in building, to the settlers. In another way he did more to benefit Aroostook county than any other man of those early days. Some of



the best blooded stock of that day in the State came here through his influence and with his money. In those days, when work was scarce, not because there was no demand for it, but because there was so little to pay for it, Mr. Haines was never without something that could be used in one's family to eat or wear, with which he could pay for a day's work, and it was seldom, summer or winter, that he turned a needy applicant away.

Before returning to their families in Fayette, Mr. Powers and Isaac F. Ellis erected log houses upon their land, and jointly with Freeman Ellis and Deacon Fowler, built twenty-one rods of cedar-log bridge across the brook and cedar swamp on the eastern line of Deacon Stevens' land. These were the first houses in the Maple Grove settlement. In the spring of 1844 they with their families occupied them. Deacon Fowler moved his family into the log camp occupied jointly by these parties while felling the forty-five acres of trees and making the improvements the season before. Freeman Ellis moved his family into the Hunt house on the A. I. Rollins place, and a few weeks later into a part of his brother Isaac's log house, and in the summer to his own framed house. This was soon followed by houses built by Deacon Fowler, J. W. Haines and Leonard Spooner, and the following year by Deacon Hiram Stevens. The house built by Mr. Haines and occupied by his brother Charles and

family for four years, was located near the spot where Mr. Albert L. Haines' fine residence now stands. The buildings erected by Freeman Ellis have been entirely removed; they stood nearly opposite the buildings upon the Spooner farm, now owned by Charles Bryant, fifty acres having been sold to his son and buildings erected, afterwards sold to Mr. Almon S. Richards, who bought all the land taken up by Mr. Ellis, except the south eighty which had previously passed into the hands of Rev. Elbridge Knight.

In the spring of 1848, Mr. J. W. Haines moved his family and took the active management of his farm. This for several years constituted the Maple Grove settlement, with slight changes, without removing any of the old landmarks. Isaac F. Ellis bought out Mr. Powers, and sold fifty acres ( which is now a part of the town farm ) off the south end of his original lot, to Matthew C. Bolster. Dea. Stevens had sold to his brother what is now the Rediker place. Mr. Nurse had sold to Enoch Hoyt the south part of the Hunt lot. Mr. Haines had sold a part of what is now the I. H. Kipp farm to his son, George W. Bradford Cummings, Esq., and James Johnston had located upon and improved the E. P. Whitney and Sanford Johnston lots; J. W. Haines had built a mill-house, and C. H. Ellis had built a shingle mill a short distance below his saw-mill, and a road had been opened across Deacon

Stevens' east lot to the mills. A road had been opened across J. W. Haines' north lot, west, into the Hoyt neighborhood. A post office had been established, with Deacon Edward S. Fowler postmaster, and C. H. Ellis mail contractor, with the understanding that the postmaster should carry the mail to and from the Fort Fairfield office once a week for the proceeds of the office. -9

## CHAPTER X.

## OUR PIONEER MOTHERS.

Some one has said that while volumes have been written about our Pilgrim Fathers, not one line has yet appeared in regard to our Pilgrim Mothers. Quite as forcible a writer has pertinently raised the question, "If it had not been for our mothers where should we be?" Whether in the deep solitude of a home far from friends, and only here and there, separated by distance too great to remove the loneliness that comes to us from the consciousness of imaginary or real evils by which we are surrounded, and beyond our power to resist; to be aroused from our reveries by the screech of the harmless owl, the howl of the hungry wolf, or the crack of the hunter's or Indian's rifle, or in the broader but not less lonely home upon the vast prairie, where from morn until night the eye may look out only to see one unbounded field of loneliness, and if perchance at times it is broken, to be followed

by suspense, not knowing whether friend or foe is coming—is an experience into which the women in pioneer life have most fully entered, and one that has been harder to bear than the hardships and privations shared with husbands and children in their rude and comfortless homes, and one that has much to do with the faltering step, the sad and weary look, the wasting strength, the cold and lifeless form, the motherless children and the distracted husband, that too often becomes a part of pioneer life.

In the settlement of the Aroostook valley, there were special causes to awaken apprehension, arouse fear and make almost unendurable the lives of those devoted women who had bravely left the comforts of civilization, and gone forth with the men of their choice—not only with them the solitude and loneliness of a forest home to share, but to enter into a larger experience of absolute loneliness, when business or necessity compelled them to spend the day, and too often extending into days, from home.

Only a few miles away there was a tribe of half civilized Indians; from time to time wild beasts prowled around by night, and sometimes came uncomfortably near by day; and often admonished of approaching sickness, with a knowledge that they were so far separated from the experienced physician that it was impossible to call for his aid,—these were only a part of the almost unendurable



trials that added to their unrest.

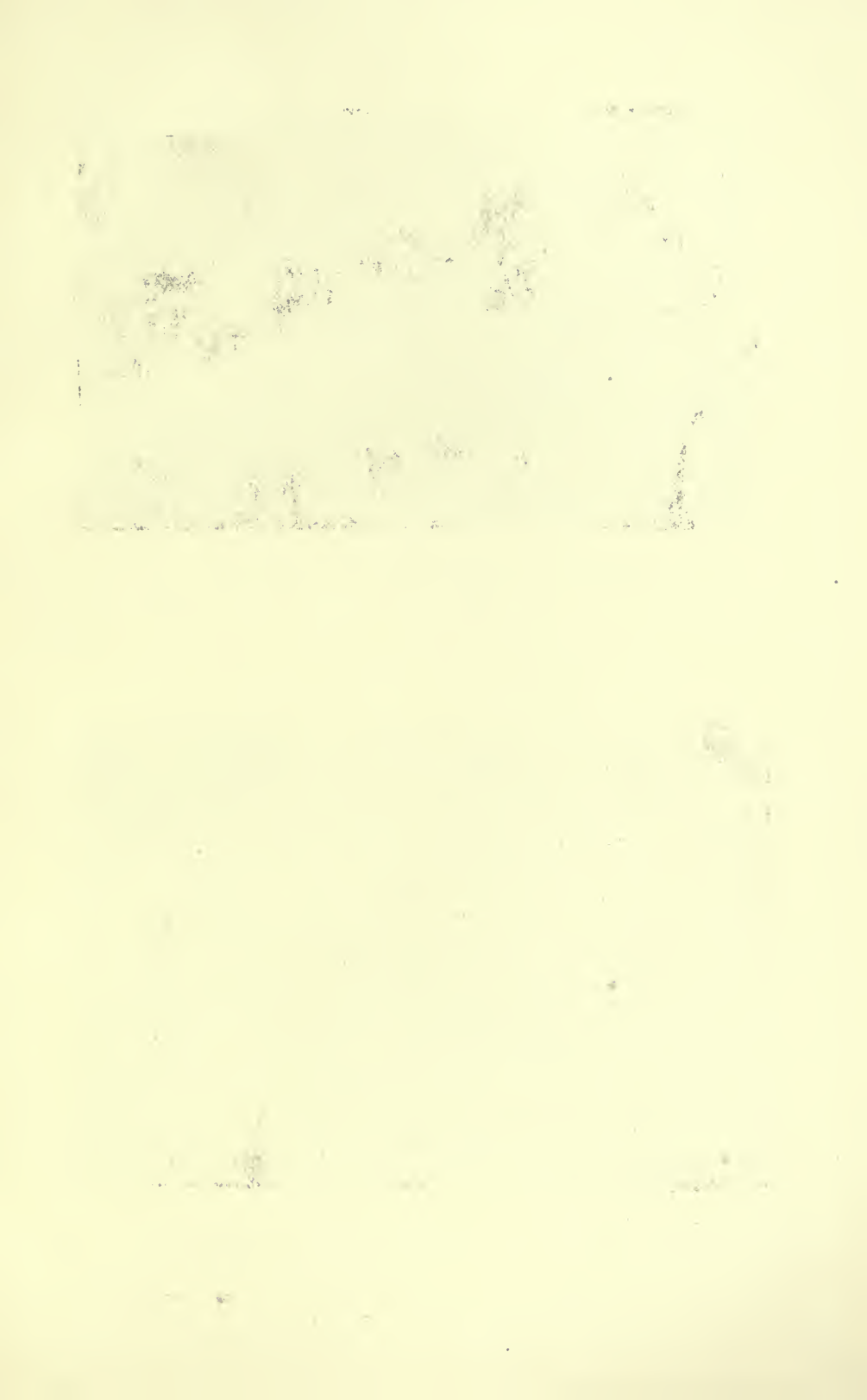
It is true these causes had a tendency to bring these early settlers nearer together—in fact, to annihilate distance; and by day or night the call of distress met with a most hearty response; and it becomes a question whether the sufferer amidst this solitude is entitled to the greater honor, or the heroic woman, who, upon a stormy night, amid the muttering of storm and the howling of wolves, mounted upon a horse led along a bridle path by a soon to be father, lantern in hand, hastened to her relief.

These motherly women who so nobly stood by and encouraged their younger sisters in their pioneer homes were not a few, and they are no less deserving of mention, or having their brows crowned with laurels, than the most renowned heroes whose life blood flowed freely upon sanguinary fields. Among these faithful and devoted women, who were ever ready to respond to the call of their suffering sisters, Mrs. William Johnston, Mrs. Freeman Ellis and Mrs. Levi Hoyt, are deserving of particular mention. If we were to give a list of all deserving of praise and admiration for their toil and privations, for their devotion to their husbands and children, for the active and laborious part they took in transforming the wilderness into the lovely happy homes we now behold, it would be to give the names of each

and all who were the sunlight of those rough but happy pioneer homes. Among the young women who commenced married life among the early settlers of our town, Mrs. Henry Currier stood pre-eminently above all others, as a wife, mother and helpmate. While she has gone over to the border land, her large family have gone out from her influence and training, and by their lives and example are a continued honor to her name. While we cannot give an extended list, we cannot forbear mention of the name of Mrs. Jesse Averill, who did her work well and has gone to her reward.

There may be others who suffered more privations, and whose heroic toil and sufferings are deserving of mention, and who did as much in the moulding of our social surroundings, but as this part of our history must be from personal observation, and it is not our purpose to extend this line of observation beyond a single chapter, we can go no farther.

The real worth and true womanhood of these worthy and devoted mothers of this young colony, are beheld in the clearest and most perfect light, in the useful, influential and commanding lives of their daughters—the mothers of to-day. And as the Roman matron pointed to her children and said: "These are my jewels," the imperishable names of their children honor every profession, strengthen every institution and aid in building up





STREET VIEW, GOODHUE'S BLOCK.



AROOSTOOK VALLEY STARCH FACTORY.

all the walks of life. While we rejoice that the world moves and that woman's influence is more and more coming to be a power, never can she rise to a higher eminence, never shall she know a higher fame, never shall a brighter halo gather around her name, than the sacred endearing name of mother, that lives, brightens and dazzles in the life work of her devoted sons.



## CHAPTER XI.

## TOPOGRAPHY AND SOIL.

There is no part of Fort Fairfield that is more than six miles distant from the Aroostook river; there are no high hills or high barren land. The highest land, which was called by the early settlers "the Mountain," is in the southeast part of the town, near the western town line; it is not only susceptible of cultivation, but was among the first land taken for settlement; the farms of Jonathan Hopkinson and Daniel G. Palmer being located upon it, and the road from Presque Isle to the village of Fort Fairfield passes over it. On the same road and nearer Fort Fairfield, is the "Whitney hill," named for its first settler, William Whitney, who took it soon after "the Mountain" was settled, and cleared it to the very summit. These high lands were free from stone, and very productive, and no doubt these high elevations were sought on account of their being less liable to frost.

The whole town with the exception of that immediately upon either side of the river is undulating and rolling, and now that the trees in its valleys and upon its hillsides are cleared away, it presents one of the most beautiful panoramas the eye of mortal man ever rested upon; varying as he ascends each hill top, and as he drinks in the beauty of his surroundings, the last appearing more beautiful than its immediate predecessor. As seen in the early forties, with here and there a small opening cut in the vast forest of maple, birch, interspersed with here and there a pine and fir, sending their slender, beautiful dressed form heavenward over-topped by stately pines looking out from above and down upon the beautiful scenery, seen in its best in the months of June and July; as the sunlight rested upon it, and the gentle breezes rustled its green, luxuriant foliage it stood unsurpassed in all the land.

The land along the river is level, and in places broad, beautiful intervals spread out before you, and in an earlier period no doubt, marked a larger and broader river from which the waters swept on to the sea.

The soil of Fort Fairfield is like that of the lower Aroostook valley. "It rests upon a foundation of argillaceous rock which is but a few feet below the surface, frequently cropping out, especially upon the sides of the hills. This rock is

composed largely of clay with a mixture of silica (sand) and lime. Its decomposition by the action of frost and heat and moisture, is in fact the material of which the soil of the Aroostook valley is made; for ages this decomposition has been going on and has made the surface of earth in the uplands of the entire region, of the richest and most productive quality."

It was from this fountain, the early settlers drew, and some of them were so well repaid that they came to the conclusion that fertilizers would never be needed upon this land.

It is these lasting qualities that makes the land after all these years respond so readily to the use of phosphates, and give the abundant and almost unprecedented yield of vegetables, grains and grasses.

Limestone is found in various places and Professor Wareing, of New York, came to the Aroostook at an early day to deliver an address before the N. Aroostook Agricultural Society, when J. Wingate Haines was President and C. H. Ellis Secretary, and through whose influence largely, he was induced to come.

After extending his visit from Presque Isle, where the fair was held, to the beautiful farms of John Allen in "G," and Winslow Hall and Ivory Hardison in "H," and to the Maple Grove settlement and home of J. Wingate Haines, he pro-

nounced the soil identical with that of the far-famed Genesee valley of central New York, and predicted future development and productiveness, unsurpassed in the land.

These lands are abundantly watered, first of all by the Aroostook river, which makes a grand sweep and giving nearly ten miles of waterway; next in importance, and coming from the south is Fitzherbert's brook, rising in the township south (Easton) and supplying two valuable water privileges, it empties into the Aroostook river about two miles above the falls. The Johnston brook, which rises in the south-west portion of the town, and upon which the Maple Grove Potato Factory and Bryant's Mill, is located, and which supplies more good mill sites, with a scanty supply of water, than any other stream in the county. This stream supplies a valuable mill site in our village, and empties into the Aroostook, near the Collins House. The Lovely brook rises in the town of Presque Isle and enters the Aroostook river one mile above the village; it is a reliable water power.

On the north side of the Aroostook river the Hurd brook, after running through the north part of the town of Fort Fairfield, comes to the river one-half mile this side of the boundary line; opposite the village is the Nelson brook, and three miles above, the Amsden brook, after watering a large breadth of land, joins the Aroostook river.

These, together with a large number of beautiful fountains of sparkling water springing up out of the earth, abundantly supply both man and beast, with this, God's best gift to man.



## CHAPTER XII.

## HARDSHIPS AND PRIVATIONS.

Some men have made a record by their patient suffering, while a much larger class are remembered more for their physical endurance, the privations they have experienced and the hardships endured, rather than for what they have really accomplished. No where is this truer than in the early settlement of the Aroostook valley. Very few of these settlers were possessed of any means other than what they earned by their daily toil. With heavy forest to remove from their land, with early frost to injure their crops, they were compelled to engage in small lumber operations, or to go from home through the winter and work in the lumber woods. And too often after a hard winter's work, the extremely high price at which goods purchased on the long time credit of a lumber operation, and hauled with teams from a far away market, had to be sold, would use up every dollar, even with the most prudent management of a frugal and industrious housewife. And to those who

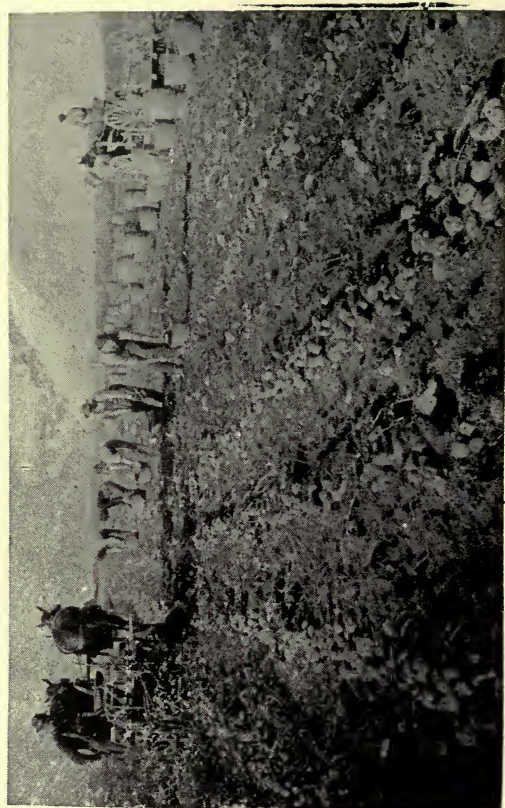
had no family to support, the hanging up of the drive, or total failure of their employer, was no unusual experience.

Potatoes, then as now, were a sure crop. The hoe struck through the turf and lifted so as to drop a potato under it, and pressed down with the foot, could safely be left until harvest time, with the assurance of an abundant return. Oats were usually a safe crop, and gave an abundant yield, and through the enterprise of a Provincial neighbor, a good mill for kilndrying and grinding them, was within reach. But for these facts some would have been compelled to abandon their improvements, and leave the country; if instances of actual starvation had not occurred; and a valuable source of bread supply, that had come into almost universal use, would not have been known to these settlers.

The experience of one, with variations, was a part of many lives. With a small clearing, a log house, the potatoes were gathered and stored in the cellar, the only provision for the wife and young family. The nearest place at which work could be had was four miles away, and each morning with his ax upon his shoulder, at an early hour he left his home to toil until late at night for a dollar, whose purchasing power was not over half, if more than one-third of what it is to-day.

Then with a few pounds of meal, (flour was not to be thought of) a piece of pork, a little tea





E. L. HOUGHTON'S POTATO HARVEST.

fastened to his ax handle and over his shoulder, he wended his way back to his lonely wife and comfortless home, to be repeated day after day, as the months and sometimes years rolled away. An incident related by an eye witness, is illustrative not only of the destitution but of the heroism with which it was endured.

"After a walk of several miles, a call at a house for a drink of water, found the family just sitting down to breakfast." He was asked to "sit up and partake with them," but declined. To his surprise there was nothing on the table but greens, (cooked fiddle-heads, a species of fern), and salt. Without being in the least abashed and probably conscious that his destitution was not the exception he coolly remarked "If the house *is* full of provision, we have to have our greens." No doubt some of our readers will think this picture overdrawn, but when in many of the families, wheat bread and butter were not seen for weeks together, we may not be surprised or unprepared for all and more than we shall find recorded in these pages.

Of our own personal knowledge, a house now stands in this village upon which the carpenter work was done with the full understanding that an order was to be given on the store, at one dollar per day, and that buckwheat pancakes and molasses was the best board that could be furnished.



The weary hours of toil, and the exposure to cold and storm, was often more endurable than the destitution and privations that was the lot of loved ones, deprived of the necessities of life, and the comfort of a home that all should enjoy.

In the winter of '44-45 a boy who had known but little of the hardships of life, was at work in the lumber woods some twenty miles from home. In midwinter such a degree of homesickness came over him that he obtained leave of absence for a few days to visit his home. But that comfortless home and destitute family, was harder to endure than all his past loneliness. So with a neighbor's horse and sled and one to return with it, he started back to the woods, going by the way of his employer's store, to whom he told of the destitution at home, and "took up" all his work had come to and all there was a prospect of earning for the remainder of the winter, and sent it home to help the family and went on his way rejoicing, to days of toil and exposure to which he had never been inured.

As we go forth and behold the broad fields, the beautiful homes and the prosperous and wealthy farmers that make up our community to-day, it is indeed difficult to realize the labor, privations, hardships and sufferings that laid the foundation and made the present possible. It is difficult to give them the place they deserve in transforming

the wilderness of desolation and gloom, into the beautiful panorama that from our hill-tops dazzles the eye of the beholder, while it entrances his vision, and leads him to exclaim: "They wisely selected, nobly planned, and worthily performed. They rest from their toil and privations, and their works are the foundation upon which others shall reap a rich reward."

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## CHAPTER XIII.

## LOOKING BACKWARD.

In March, 1843, a boy in his eighteenth year left school and home in a quiet village in central Maine, and started out on what proved to be a seven days' journey, to the then almost unknown Aroostook county.

The entire party consisted of three men and the boy, and two one horse loaded teams. The roads were bad, snow deep, and it was very difficult getting past teams that were met. There was very little going faster than a walk, and upon rising ground all walked. It was a tiresome and dreary journey, and before its end a full two feet of snow was added to that before fallen. After leaving Lincoln village, there was only here and there a house in a small clearing until Mattawankeag Point was reached, where there was a tavern, a store, two or three small houses and a blacksmith shop.

From the "Point" to the mouth of the Aroostook road we passed over an unsettled country, not an inhabitant for the whole distance, and the land too poor to raise timber of any size. At the mouth of the Aroostook road there was a tavern (hotel was not known in those days) and two large stables. There was a tavern at Molunkus, the "Letter A House" and only two or three settlers until we were within five miles of Houlton. Houlton was a quiet halmet, with Hancock Barracks and a regiment of United States troops nearly one mile away.

After leaving Houlton we passed a few small openings before arriving at General Wellington's (Monticello), from there to Ketchum's (Bridgewater) we passed through an unbroken wilderness, as before, until within three miles of Fairbank's (Presque Isle), with the exception of Thorn's, a log house half way between Bridgewater and Presque Isle, where a halt was almost universally made for dinner, to bait the team, or for a drink of something stronger than water. Before arriving at Fairbanks we passed two small openings with their small log houses, occupied by Dea. Rose and Hiram Hardison and their families, and possibly there might have been two or three others.

From Presque Isle we passed the Veranus Chandler place (a very small beginning) and after crossing the west line of "Letter D" (Fort Fairfield), found the roadsides dotted with small open-

ings where Jonathan Hopkinson, Daniel G. Palmer, Mr. Bragdon, Benjamin D. and Otis Eastman, Levi Hoyt, William Whitney, Orrin Whitney, Hunt, Tucker and Lyon had just commenced improvements.

It was a long, weary journey, with very little to interest or lift the dark veil that seemed to settle as a pall over the young life. It was a going out, without Abraham's faith, "not knowing whither he went." It was a journey away from home, away from young associates, away from all that had made up a happy, hopeful, joyous life. It was the begining of a severe but valuable discipline. It was the school of personal reliance and self discipline, it was the putting away of boyhood and entering upon the royal road of reliant manhood.

Our first day in Fort Fairfield was April 5th. Our first effort at a day's work was cutting ice, which was nearly or quite three feet thick in the Aroostook river. A charter for a boom at the mouth of the Aroostook had been obtained from the British Parliament. Capt. J. B. Wing had purchased the Aroostook boom from the State, and was engaged in cutting it out of the ice, and hauling it to the mouth of the river, to have it in readiness to hold the spring drives and raft the timber before running it down the St. John river. The snow was then six feet deep; many of the teams had come out of the woods unable to work, some



by reason of scattered timber and long roads, some because it was impossible to get supplies in from Bangor, on account of deep snow and bad roads.

Hardships and privations were the lot of all the settlers. Late springs and early frosts were experienced for several subsequent years. Lumbering seemed to be the popular employment, but most of these new settlers who had never had any experience in that business, were indeed lucky if a winter's living for themselves and families was realized from their investment, but a more common experience was to come out in debt.

Aroostook at that early day was fortunate in the class of settlers that came to make homes. They were men who came with dependent families, and used up all their means before they had begun to experience the hardships and privations that came thick and fast.

It is true they were hard working men with indomitable wills, with courage to face the most discouraging surroundings. They heroically remained and faced all these privations and trials for the simple but effective reason, that there was nowhere they could go, and they had nothing to go with. Like their heroic ancestors who two hundred and twenty-three years before came over in the Mayflower, they had risked all to better their condition, they had sold all their possessions, and with their dependent families had located in these far away for-

est homes. And as all possibility of returning was cut off when the Mayflower raised her anchor and hoisted sails for her return voyage,—so they were here to go forward, here to subdue these forests, here to let in the sunlight, that it might warm the soil, dry up the dampness, change the seasons, and make this dreary and forbidding desolation the garden of the State. They were here to stay: for to turn back was death, their only way was to do or die. Like them they were firm believers in an overruling and gracious Providence. To them the seed time and the harvest were a verity; to them hardship and privations were a discipline, and with them the minister, the church, the schoolhouse and the teacher, were as necessary as the bread and clothing for their families. Faith in God inspired in them faith in themselves, and failure became an impossibility, and success became assured. Like them, present duty and faith in a brighter and more prosperous future was their guiding star. The forest fell before the woodman's axe, and the waving grain was gathered, and the work of transformation steadily and persistently went forward.

Like them, they builded better than they knew. If we turn back to the close of the first fifty years of the Plymouth Colony and carefully study its history, we shall find that it in no way compares with the rich harvest that has been gathered from the toil, privations and indomitable will of the Aroostook pioneers.





STREET VIEW FROM LEADER OFFICE.

## CHAPTER XIV.

## LETTER D PLANTATION.

It was not to be expected that American citizens would be content to forego the privilege of a voice in the selection of their rulers. Our forefathers resisted the British crown because of taxation without representation. Our fathers planned for representation without taxation.

The legislature in the winter of 1840 passed an act, for the organization of plantations for election purposes. This organization gave all the rights of franchise, in the election of State, national and county officers, and consisted of a board of assessors and clerk, and made no provision for raising money by taxation for any purpose whatever.

At the September election in 1840 the nearest place of voting was Houlton, and Capt. John B. Wing, D. K. Hobart of Presque Isle and Almon S. Richards went to Houlton to vote at the State election.



On October 19, 1840, "Letter D" and Plymouth Grant in Range 1, "Letters F, G and H" and Eaton Grant in Range 2 and Townships 12 and 13 in Range 3 were organized as Presque Isle plantation, and Veranus Chandler, Silas Blodgett and Isaac McDonald were chosen assessors. On September 4, 1841, "Letters D and E" and Plymouth Grant Range 1, "Letter H" and Eaton Grant Range 2 were organized with John B. Wing, Abel Humphry and William Johnston, assessors, and E. W. Waite clerk. The next plantation on the lower Aroostook to organize, was Caribou. This embraced Letters H and I Range 2, and was organized April 24, 1848 and in 1854, Eaton Grant and the west half of Plymouth Grant became a separate plantation organization.

The officers consisted of a moderator who presided at the annual meeting; a clerk, who was required to keep a record of the proceedings, and three assessors, whose duty consisted in deciding as to who was entitled to vote, counting and declaring the votes, and making the proper returns.

It is doubtful just when or how the original Letter D Plantation became organized with power to assess taxes; but as the necessity for schools became apparent, the people demanded taxation to support them, and the raising money for roads and other purposes until the board of officers with duties as general as those in towns were in active

operation. At these early plantation meetings party lines were strictly drawn, as it was all important that *our* side controlled the decision as to who had the right to vote, and experience had not been slow to teach that it made a vast difference whether the applicant for the high honor of casting a ballot intended to vote for or against the party who controlled the polls. Often times at the annual plantation election excitement ran high. Every man within the territorial limits, would be found at the polling place, and if by reason of sickness one was detained at home, they were so evenly divided as to affect the result. While a large proportion of the new settlers were men of decided convictions and strong partisans, there was always an element open to conviction, and the stronger influence and other inducements were a factor that was to be taken into consideration in the final results.

The annual "March meeting"—which was held in April—and the State and national elections, were important events, together with the fourth of July, that brought the people together, kept the fires of patriotism burning, and left an abiding consciousness in every mind that the future destiny of state and nation depended upon their influence and vote.

The strange and unaccountable thing was, that so many unreasonable and ridiculous things could be enacted in the name of liberty and equal rights,

without in the least destroying faith in, or losing respect for, the sacred rites of the ballot. Each and every coming together for election purposes was a diversion and recreation. Each election was a reminder that we, although completely isolated from former homes and friends, were American citizens, with all the inherent power of any others, or with other equal numbers in the richest, most populous and oldest portion of the land. A careful study of situation from the standpoint of results convinces us that the ballot was quite as much a power in keeping up the spirit of patriotism, and in winning to our form of government and institutions those familiar with and loyal to another, as in its influence in deciding elections and influencing governmental affairs. In this we do not wish to be understood as in any way belittling, or placing a low estimate upon this secret, silent but omnipresent power in American politics.

From the earliest settlement in New England, the right of representation had been a cherished thought, a component part of true and dignified manhood.

A government by the people, coupled with "we are the people," became the central idea of equal and exact rights.

The ballot became more and more the power for all that was right and the destroyer of all that was wrong. In those plantation days the number

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of ballots cast in proportion to the actual number of voters was greater than in older and more thickly populated communities. And if we mistake not, as intelligent and conscientious ballots were cast as in any part of the land.

## CHAPTER XV.

## PLANTATION MEETINGS.

The first political organization in this town was effected in 1842 under the State law. It was for election purposes only and was under the name of "Letter D Plantation." The organization was effected by the choice of a moderator to preside at the annual meeting, which was for the election of plantation officers, to consist of three assessors who were to be judges of the right of franchise, preside and keep order at the annual elections, receive, sort, count and make official returns of the votes; and a clerk, who kept a correct record of all proceedings at both the annual spring election of plantation officers, and of the September election returns. To this was added the important duty of posting all notices of intentions of marriage, and for the moderate sum of fifty cents to supply the interested parties with a certificate, setting forth that such duty had been legally performed.



The election of plantation officers was considered a matter of considerable importance. Party politics often ran high, and with parties about equally divided, some sharp practices were resorted to in carrying the day. The names of Whig and Democrat were often held up and their principles advocated with as much earnestness as if the most sacred rights, and present, if not eternal interests, were involved. At one election it was evident that a most determined fight was to be made. Mr. Addison Powers, who had made many personal friends, was the Whig candidate for moderator, and when the vote was declared it was seen that he had been elected by only one majority. The next vote, for clerk, was looked forward to with much anxiety. The Democrats had placed in nomination a very popular and estimable young man; the Whigs had also put in nomination a young man who had cast his first vote that morning for moderator. The canvass became quite exciting, and the two candidates did not lack interest in the proceedings. In the height of the excitement the Democratic candidate approached his competitor and offered to exchange votes with him. This proposition was flatly refused, and supplemented with the remark,—“that he did not propose to be cheated by such a transaction.” This reply was promptly resented, as it had a right to be, from the standpoint in which it had been received. For no one who knew that young man

would question for a moment that if he had in exchange for his own vote, taken the one for his Whig opponent, he would have most sacredly deposited it in the ballot box. And when a demand was made for the reason for making such an insinuation, a most positive denial was made of having done so. But when asked what he did mean, he said: "You would have had a chance to vote for a loyal Whig, and I should be compelled to vote for a Democrat." The Whig then stepped up to the polls and cast a vote for himself amidst hearty cheers. And when the votes were counted and it was found that he was elected by an increased majority, more than one attributed his election to that reply.

These plantation meetings proved of real benefit to the new settlement, by reason of their bringing together the two distinct and separate classes who made up this settlement: those who were made citizens and voters by the Webster-Ashburton treaty and those who came here from "outside" (anywhere beyond the long and dreary woods from Mattawamkeag Point to Houlton). In 1840 these two classes were absolutely distinct and separate from each other: the one here by authority from the British crown, and in hearty sympathy with their customs and institutions; the other loyal to and proud of their Americanism and Republican institutions. Something more alluring than the





STREET BLOCKADE AT G. L. FOSS' POTATO HOUSE.



setting up of a government for which they had no respect, was required to call them out, and the political excitement and party opposition was a valuable adjunct in bringing this really foreign element into harmony and unity with their American cousins.

Among the active workers in forming and bringing into harmony these distinct and separate, if not opposing factions, Capt. Stephen B. Pattee, Hon. John B. Trafton, George A. Nurse, E. Parlin Whitney, Charles R. Paul, Elbridge W. Waite and Almon S. Richards were the most successful and efficient workers. It is, however, extremely doubtful if they would have succeeded if it had not been for the setting up of a new line of differences and fighting their battles on party lines.

While agitation and discussion of party politics went on, not only at election times but through the year; and the tariff, the national bank, and internal improvements became interesting subjects for evening discussion at home, among neighbors, and in the lumber camps; they did not disturb social relations or personal friendship.

The real importance and social power of the plantation meetings will never be appreciated, save by those who were active participants, careful observers and earnest students, not only of the institution itself, but of its influence upon the entire community; and then only when they come to



realize that its mystic power has made of these conflicting elements one people, broader in their opinions, more liberal in their principles and more devoted to their country and their homes.

## CHAPTER XVI.

## A MOOSE HUNT.

In the fall of 1844 some of the Maple Grove settlers had seen tracks and other marks that convinced them that there were moose near by. The following March, with over four feet of snow and a good crust, they organized a moose hunt. One or two of the party had seen a bear and a wolf among the mountains of old Oxford county. With these exceptions, the fox and the rabbit were the largest wild game they had ever seen, and the habits of the moose and the manner of hunting them were wholly unknown. The party of five, with two old firelocks and an equal number of dogs, had proceeded but a short distance when they found old tracks in the snow, broken twigs and here and there bark gnawed from small trees. Soon the tracks began to look new, but nothing answering to the hunters' idea of a moose yard put in an appearance. In fact, nothing short of seeing the snow trodden down as completely as it was in their barnyard, would have come up to their idea of a moose yard. Not one of the party had the least idea that

a moose was within a mile of them, when, coming up over a knoll, they saw standing not four rods away, three moose, and the two dogs, quietly looking at each other. Evidently this was the first experience of the moose and dogs, as it was of the hunters of the sight before them. The moose had to choose between standing their ground, and starting out through four feet of snow with a crust that cut like a knife. The dogs, who had approached very much nearer than the hunters cared to do, appeared to have the entire attention of the moose.

As the hunters leveled their two old firelocks, at least one of the party felt a greater desire to climb a tree, than to follow up the moose, or even to remain unprotected at so short a distance from the three wild, ungainly looking animals before them. Only one of the guns responded to the call that was made, but that was enough to send the three moose through the deep snow, breaking through the hard crust at every step. The dogs now began to understand the part they were to play, and at the distance of ten rods brought the wounded moose to bay, and a well directed shot soon ended his life. The dogs were soon upon their track, and in less than half a mile held up the second moose, which was killed, but not until he had seriously wounded the best dog. The only dog that proved to be of any use being wounded and unable to make any better time than the men on snowshoes, the chase was soon

given up, and the party returned to their homes well satisfied with their day's hunt. The next morning a part of the original hunting party, under the pretence of bringing in the hides and the remainder of the meat, started in pursuit of the other moose. After going a little over a mile from where they left the tracks the day before, they came upon the moose in a little clump of evergreen trees, too lame and sore to make another start through the deep snow and hard crust. One or two good shots brought down the game, which proved to be an old cow moose, nearly or quite as large as both of the two-year-olds killed the day before.

Thus ended the moose hunt, the inexperienced hunters believing they had killed all that were in the yard. But in this they were mistaken, as it afterwards appeared. Before any of the moose were seen, the leader of the herd became alarmed and broke away from his companions, and made for the lowlands at the head of the Fitzherbert brook, where a more experienced hunter succeeded in securing him a few days later. While the moose meat was a most desirable addition to the scanty larders of several pioneer families, the excitement of the chase prepared the way for raids upon moose, caribou and deer, that soon drove them from this and the town south of us, and was a happy diversion from the quiet of the long and dreary winters.

## CHAPTER XVII.

## INTERESTING FACTS.

We are not able to obtain a full list of prices in the Aroostook at an early day, but in 1831 a store was opened at the mouth of the Aroostook river in New Brunswick where they bought pine timber of the settlers at \$3 per ton and paid in goods at the following prices: Inferior prints 50 cents per yard. They tore webs of sheeting in two lengthwise, and sold it half width at 50 cents per yard. Tobacco at \$1.50 per pound, boots from \$8 to \$9 per pair, flour at \$16 and herring at \$18 per barrel.

## PATRIOTISM.

Love of country and devotion to its institutions induced Captain John B. Wing to start out on a horse back ride of fifty miles to cast his vote for State and county officers; at Presque Isle he was joined by Mr. D. K. Hobart. They had gone but a little over a mile when they came to a small chopping belonging to Mr. Almon S. Richards. Mr. Richards had no horse to ride, but by an accomodating arrangement they "rode and tied," and



the two horses took the three men to Houlton in time to vote. All three of these men were among the first voters at the Presque Isle plantation election the same year.

#### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

In the spring of 1841 John B. Wing and William Johnston were appointed Justices of the Peace and Almon S. Richards Deputy Sheriff. He held this office for two years, and in 1843 Joseph Fox was appointed, and in 1844 Charles W. Doughty. In 1843 Daniel Libby held the office of Justice of the Peace. Some of the earliest marriages in the valley were performed by him and William Johnston, who were both very popular with the young people of that day.

#### THE MAIL.—POST OFFICE.

The nearest post office in 1840 was at Houlton, and arrangements was entered into by the volunteers with David Bubar, to go to Houlton once in two weeks and bring them mail and take their letters there to mail. These trips were all made on foot and the mail bag returned on his back.

In the spring of 1841 Daniel Libby agreed to carry the mail at \$10 per trip, but was not obliged to go oftener then once in four weeks, and the same season Warren A. Johnston was appointed special messenger for the United States officers, and made trips to Houlton as the business of the post required. This service was strictly for the

regulars who came here in September 1841, and consisted of a company of United States Infantry under command of Captain Van Ness, with Lieutenants Michaels, Ricketts, and McCall; Dr. Coolidge, surgeon; Major Graham, paymaster; and W. H. Cary, commissary. These troops remained here until September, 1843, when they were ordered to Eastport and subsequently to the Rio Grande, and to participate in the war with Mexico.

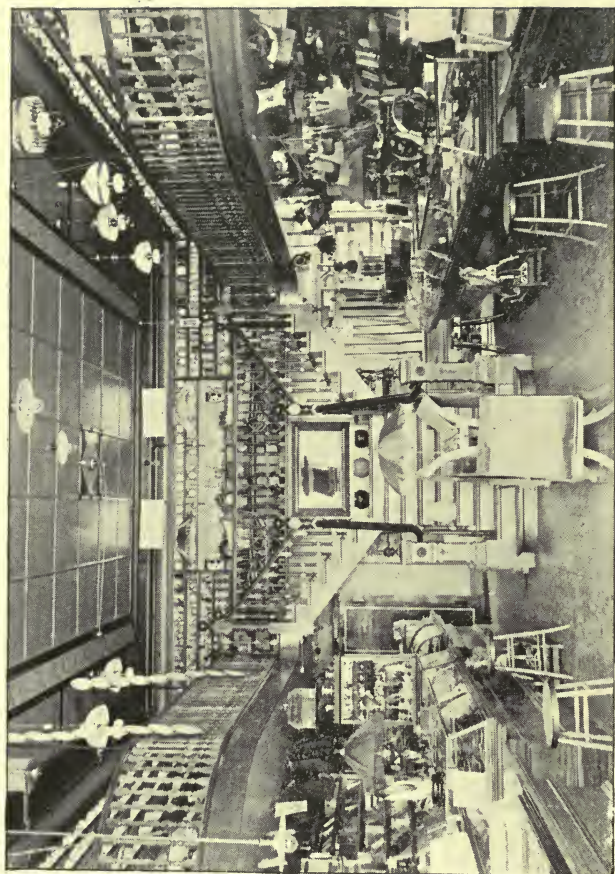
#### FIRST MILL.

In the winter of 1840, Dudley F. Leavitt secured a grant of three thousand acres of land in this township, upon the condition of building a mill for the benefit of the settlers. Leavitt sold out to Pattee and Frisbee, and in the fall of 1841 the mill was so nearly completed that they commenced sawing. In 1842 the firm was changed to Pattee and Hayward.

#### THE FIRST HOUSE.

The first framed house built in the township is now occupied by Mr. A. P. Wellington. It was built by James Fitzherbert near the mouth of the Fitzherbert brook, and was the one from which Land Agent McIntyre was captured in the Aroostook war. The first house built by private enterprise was the Pattee house, built of squared hewn timber, and for several years occupied by Hon. Jesse Drew. It is a low, red house, in front of





INTERIOR GOODHUE'S JEWELRY STORE.

which are two large tamarac trees, at the lower village.

The first houses built and occupied by young married people, were, a double house at the lower village built by E. W. Waite and Almon S. Richards, and Capt. John B. Wing's house, the first on the north side of Presque Isle street.

#### THE FIRST MINISTER.

The first minister to visit the Aroostook was Rev. J. G. Pingree, of the East Maine Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Pingree's circuit extended from Masardis to the boundary. At the Fort he was cordially received and liberally paid, and found some earnest Methodists. We have no record, but the probabilities are that he organized a Methodist class while here, in the summer of 1839.

#### THE FIRST ORGANIZED CHURCH.

Rev. Mr. Merrill, Congregationlist, was sent here by the Maine Missionary Society in the summer of 1844. His labors were very successful, and he found devoted friends in the new settlement.

In the summer of 1844, in a small log house in the Maple Grove settlement, he organized what has since become the strong and influential Congregational Church of Fort Fairfield.

#### THE FIRST SETTLED MINISTER.

Rev. Alphonso Rogers was the first settled



minister in the township. He secured a grant of a lot of land from the State, which he soon sold, as he had already located a lot in a good Methodist neighborhood. The lot granted to Elder Rogers is the one now owned and occupied by Mr. Harry C. Townsend.

#### THE FIRST SCHOOL.

Charles Stiver, one of the "civil posse," taught the first school in Fort Fairfield in the winter of 1839-40. This school was kept in a log building on the Fort Hill, and was composed of the following families, viz: William Johnston, Nathan Johnston, James Fitzherbert, John Dorsey, Abel Humphry, John Rediker and David Burtzell.

#### FIRST BABIES.

The first male child born in Fort Fairfield was Edward, son of John Dorsey, born in 1825, the first baby born to any coming after or in connection with the war, was a girl baby at the United States officers' quarters on Fort Hill, and claimed for her parents, Lieutenant and Mrs. James Ricketts, and was christened "Aristine," that being the pronunciation given by the early settlers to the Aroostook.

#### THE FIRST DEATH.

The first to meet the dread destroyer in the new settlement was John Bubar, of whom an early settler says: "He died in October, 1828, and was

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buried upon the bank of the Aroostook river. I split a pine tree into boards and hewed and planed them for his coffin; he being the first human being who died in what is now Fort Fairfield."

## CHAPTER XIX.

## WRITTEN RECORD.

The first record of Letter D plantation, except the simple fact of organization, and election returns in the office of the secretary of State, in which the first board of officers was given, is a warrant issued by H. W. Hyde, E. W. Hoyt and Thomas Flannery, assessors of Letter D plantation, to Mark Trafton Jr., constable, requesting him to warn the legal voters to meet at the school house near Fort Fairfield on Monday, the 11th day of April, 1853, to act on the following articles:

- 1st. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.
- 2d. To choose a Plantation Clerk.
- 3rd. To choose three Assessors.
- 4th. To choose a School Committee.
- 5th. To choose a Treasurer.
- 6th. To choose Constables.
- 7th. To choose Surveyors of Lumber.
- 8th. To see what action the Plantation will take in regard to the legal sale of spirituous liquors.

This was dated the fourth day of April, 1853, and attested to by H. W. Hyde, plantation clerk.

At this meeting, Porter E. Ross was chosen moderator; Henry W. Hyde, clerk, Almon S. Richards, Porter E. Ross and James Bishop, assessors, Rev. E. Knight and Osco A. Ellis, school committee; C. H. Ellis, tax collector (and not one dollar of money was voted to be collected); C. H. Ellis, Charles Harmon and Stephen E. Phipps, constables; and E. W. Waite and Jesse S. Averill, surveyors of lumber. On the eighth article of the warrant it was voted, "that a man be appointed by the assessors as a legal agent for the sale of spirituous liquors, for medical and mechanical purposes."

The only other plantation meeting was at the September election, when 139 votes were cast for governor. At this meeting Stephen B. Pattee received one hundred and twenty-seven votes for representative to the legislature, being thirty-eight more than the party candidate secured for governor.

In 1854, Addison Powers was moderator; H. W. Hyde, clerk; and Freeman Ellis, Jr., Jonathan Hopkinson and Jesse S. Averill, assessors. At this meeting Mark Trafton, Jr., was chosen constable and collector, but as in the year before no money was raised to be collected.

At the March meeting in 1855 Addison Powers

was again chosen moderator, and Bradford Cummings, clerk; Freeman Ellis, Jr., Addison Powers and A. I. Rollins, assessors.

At this meeting there were two articles looking to the raising of money. One for making and repairing roads and one for the support of schools. The first was passed over without action, and a vote was taken to raise four hundred dollars for the support of schools, and carried, but at this meeting as well as the two preceeding it, although an article in the warrant called for the election of a treasurer, no record is found that would indicate that anyone had been chosen.

On the 7th of May, 1855, a second plantation meeting was held, at which Edward S. Fowler was chosen moderator, and it was voted to raise four hundred dollars for the support of schools and six hundred to make and repair roads, and the superintending school committee and assessors were made a committee to divide the plantation into school districts. At this meeting Bradford Cummings was chosen plantation treasurer.

At the March meeting of 1856, Henry W. Hyde was chosen moderator, Bradford Cummings, clerk, and H. W. Hyde, Osco A. Ellis and Eben Richardson, assessors. At this meeting four hundred dollars was raised for the support of schools, one thousand dollars for roads, and one hundred dollars to defray plantation charges.



At this meeting the warrant made no provision for the election of a plantation treasurer, and strange as it may appear, the records show no action in regard to that matter.

At this meeting it was voted to hold future plantation meetings at the "Black Schoolhouse," (at the mouth of the Maple Grove road).

On the 24th day of March, a called meeting was held at the "Black Schoolhouse," at which a number of changes were made in the school districts, but no treasurer was chosen.

At the March meeting of 1857, Hiram Stevens was chosen moderator, and William F. Hopkinson clerk; E. Knight, Hiram Stevens and B. Cummings assessors, and William F. Hopkinson treasurer.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## THE FORT IN 1843.

In the spring of 1843, the boom that had been placed in the river to stop trespass timber, had been sold by the State authorities, and was being hauled to the mouth of the Aroostook to be used for holding timber and logs, so that they could be rafted before running them to the St. John market. The snow had fallen to a great depth, and teams were unable to get supplies in to their camps, and were compelled by the first of April to move out.

William Johnston was keeping a public house on a small scale, but fully up to the demands of the new country, under ordinary circumstances; but on account of cutting the boom from the ice, and teams and crews coming out of the woods, his house was crowded to overflowing.

In addition to the usual company that made up the little settlement, the last of March Capt. John B. Wing returned from Piscataquis county, with his young wife, a brother in law and a friend, Mr. Charles W. Doughty, who had also a few weeks before married a wife. Early in April a party of four, who had come to make homes in the new





THE J. B. WILLIAMS BLOCK.



THE CUTTS AND SCATES BLOCK.

country, were added to the number of guests at "Johnston's." To say that there was a houseful is not putting it any too strongly.

Pattee and Hayward were keeping store at the lower village. Capt. Wing was doing some trading, but on a very small scale. J. Holman Cary was commissary on the Fort Hill. There was a log house a few rods from where Mrs. M. A. Eastman's house now stands, a blockhouse, and cookhouse on the bank of the river, near where Mr. A. P. Libby's buildings stand; Mr. Johnston's tavern, where Mr. T. A. Fisher's residence stands, and the stable opposite, on the north side of the road; Mr. John Dorsey's log house, near where the C. P. R. depot now stands, and a timber house and store combined at the lower village, and Fitzherbert's house at the mouth of the Fitzherbert brook. Besides the fort, officers and soldiers' quarters, commissary store, blacksmith shop and cookhouse on Fort Hill, these constituted all of Fort Fairfield in the spring of 1843. Along the river banks in very small clearings were, of the most humble kind, the homes of the first settlers.

In the spring of 1843 there were, in the territory now embraced in the town of Fort Fairfield, the following settlers,—and possibly others whose names we have failed to obtain,—viz: William Johnston, Stephen B. Pattee, J. B. Wing, Elbridge W. Waite, Almon S. Richards, Hiram Stevens,



William Whitney, Levi Hoyt, Jonathan Hopkinson, Daniel G. Palmer, Benjamin D. Eastman, Otis Eastman, Henry C. Currier, Orrin Whitney, E. Parlin Whitney, Freeman Ellis, Jr., Isaac F. Ellis, Addison Powers, Edward S. Fowler, Daniel Libby, Nathan Johnston, James Fitzherbert, Samuel Fitzherbert, Nicholas Dee, William Turner, James Campbell, Daniel Campbell, John Dorsey, William Jones, Calvin P. Stevens, John Rediker, George Rediker, Gideon Deering, Charles Walton, Joseph Barnes, Cornelius Lyon, William Houlton, Daniel Tucker, Sanford Johnson, John M. Hunt, Octave Carnie, Edward Johnston, — Chase, Jesse S. Averill, Stephen E. Phipps, Charles Haines, Charles W. Doughty, Caleb H. Ellis, A. W. Clark, — Bragdon, Josiah Hunting, Samuel Work, Michael McKinney, Alexander McDougald, Martin Murray, Joseph Nelson, John Argrave, Abel Humphrey, Joseph Fisher, Andrew Welsh, Samuel Varney, David Burtzell, Francis Boulier, Amos Bishop, William Bishop, Joseph Findland, J. Holman Cary, and the officers and company of of United States Infantry stationed on the hill. The land adjoining the State road had all been taken by actual settlers, and all the centre road (Maple Grove) within one mile of the south line of the township, and Henry C. Currier had commenced a house north of the State road, and opposite the mouth of the centre line road. The improvements upon the lots varied

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from the falling of a few trees to hold possession, to a comfortable house and an opening of ten acres, but the improvement would scarcely average more than a small log house and a clearing of five acres of land.

## CHAPTER XX.

## WRITTEN RECORD—CONTINUED.

On Monday March 29th, 1858, the last plantation meeting was held at the Black Schoolhouse.

Edward S. Fowler was chosen moderator; Henry W. Hyde and O. A. Ellis, assessors; and on the same day the secretary of State certified that an act to incorporate the town of Fort Fairfield had passed the legislature and been signed by Governor Lot M. Morrill, and on the 19th day of April, 1858, a town meeting was held to perfect the organization and elect town officers. Edward S. Fowler, moderator; H. W. Hyde, town clerk; O. A. Ellis, Frederick Ellis and William F. Hopkinson, selectmen, assessors and overseers of the poor; Thomas Hoyt was chosen town treasurer and Freeman Ellis, Jr., town agent.

At this first town meeting only \$250 was raised for schools and \$800 for the highways and bridges.

The following men, good and true, were presented as a juror list and accepted by the town, viz:

Jesse Drew, Hiram Stevens, George W. Haines, Stillman Gordon, Levi Hoyt, John F. Ellis, Henry C. Currier and Enoch W. Hoyt.

The original act of incorporation of the town of Fort Fairfield, made the Aroostook river in place of the township line, the north line of the town. By this action a few lots in Letter D were attached to Sarsfield plantation and so much of the original Plymouth Grant as lay south of the river, a part of Fort Fairfield.

We have no means of determining the exact population of the town at this time, but do not think it materially differed from a *pro rata* increase from 1850 to 1860, which would make it eight hundred. In 1860 it was nine hundred and one, with one hundred and sixty-seven polls with a valuation of \$75,975. In 1859, Jesse S. Averill was moderator; H. W. Hyde, clerk; William F. Hopkinson, Jesse Drew and George W. Haines, selectmen.

For the March meeting of 1860, the warrant was issued to Freeman Ellis Jr., constable, and signed by William F. Hopkinson, Jesse Drew and George W. Haines, selectmen.

At the town meeting on March 26, 1860, Stillman Gordon was chosen moderator; Henry W. Hyde, clerk; William F. Hopkinson, Albion P. Wellington and Frederick Ellis, selectmen; voted to raise \$1,650, as follows, viz: \$450 for the support of schools, \$1,000 for the repair of highways and

\$200 to defray town expenses.

For the March meeting of 1865 the warrant was issued to David N. Ross, constable; and signed by William Small, A. C. Cary and Jesse S. Averill, selectmen.

At this town meeting held March 13, 1865, C. H. Ellis was chosen moderator; Henry W. Hyde, clerk; William Small, A. C. Cary and J. H. Randall, selectmen. At this meeting voted to raise \$3,725, viz: For schools \$700, for roads \$2,500, for the town poor \$275, and for town expenses \$250.

This meeting adjourned to meet in two weeks. At the adjourned meeting J. H. Randall was excused from serving as selectman and Addison Powers was chosen to fill the vacancy. Voted to buy the schoolhouse from district No. 3 for \$450, and authorized the selectmen to issue town orders to pay for the same. Voted to raise \$160 towards the payment of a town house.

In 1865 the demand for a bridge over the Aroostook river had become so urgent that the matter was brought before the legislature and an appropriation obtained to aid in that work to the amount of \$2,500.

Plymouth Grant, which had become an organized plantation and known as Sarsfield plantation, in the winter of 1867, was, by an act of the legislature, annexed to the town of Fort Fairfield.

The first annual meeting of the original Letter



D, Range 1, and Plymouth Grant united and organized by legislative enactments into the town of Fort Fairfield, was held in the town hall in the village of Fort Fairfield, March 25th, 1867.

At this meeting J. B. Trafton, Esq., was chosen moderator; Henry W. Hyde, clerk; William Small, Hiram Stevens and A. S. Townsend, selectmen; H. W. Hyde, treasurer. At this meeting \$5,900 was raised as follows: For schools \$1,100, for the poor \$350, to defray town charges \$450, for roads and bridges \$4,000; and voted that Isaac Hacker, Hiram Stevens, Bradford Cummings, Henry W. Hyde and Elbridge J. Pattee be a committee to solicit subscriptions to aid in building a bridge across the Aroostook river at or near the village of Fort Fairfield in conjunction with the appropriation by the State legislature, with power to hold the town responsible for a part of the amount necessary, and at their discretion to commence the work.

At a town meeting held September 24, 1857, it was voted to extend the time for completing the piers and abutments of the bridge.

At the March meeting in 1868, the committee was given full power to close a contract with James Doyle and to go forward with the construction of the bridge.

In November, 1868, at a special town meeting, it became necessary to authorize the bridge com-

mittee to extend the time for the completion of the bridge, if in their opinion it was expedient. The time was extended and the following year this most desirable object was accomplished.

The increase in population and children of school age made the adjustment of school district lines one of the most difficult questions to consider, and was the cause of several special plantation and town meetings.





WM. SMALL & CO'S STORE.

## CHAPTER XXI.

## WRITTEN HISTORY—CONTINUED.

In 1870, A. P. Wellington, Isaac Hacker and R. S. Hoyt, were selectmen. The total value of real estates was \$155,576, and of personal estates \$66,949 and the total assessment was \$7,159.38. This year there was received from the State treasurer on account of soldiers furnished under the several calls of the President for soldiers to put down the rebellion, \$5,678, and by the treasurer's report it appears that \$1,203.12 was paid out to soldiers. The report for this says:

"It is claimed by some, that the town has the right to take from the money received the whole amount it paid out as bounties, viz: \$2,636.50.

"If this construction of the law is correct there is due to soldiers \$1,838.

"It is also claimed by some that the town has a right to take only the amount it has reimbursed, viz: \$100 for the three years' men to whom it paid \$100 bounty (or more), and a like proportion for a less term of service viz: \$1800. If this con-



struction of the law is correct there is due to soldiers, \$2,675.21." A foot-note attached to the report of resources and liabilities says:

"These amounts will vary as the amount due soldiers may be altered." The above is an acknowledgement of being custodian of an amount of money received from the State treasurer for a specific purpose. Subsequently this became a subject of dispute, and the money was appropriated to the use of the town, and remains unpaid to the soldiers until the present time. At the March meeting of 1894, George W. Eastman revived the whole subject, and made a very able and convincing speech in favor of appropriating the money to the building of a soldiers' monument. There was no disagreement as to the justice of such a proceeding, but on account of the state of the town's finances, it was not thought advisable to make the appropriation. Both the honor of the town and justice to the deceased soldiers and their friends from which it has been withheld, indicate that it will subsequently be done.

In 1875, the Hon. N. Fessenden, Almon S. Richards and I. F. Blaisdell were chosen selectmen, and J. F. Hacker, town treasurer.

The cash assessment was \$6,021.95, as follows: for school \$1,510.40, paupers \$1,000, town expenses \$1,200, free high school \$250, lockup \$150, lighting bridge \$20, overlaying \$15.55, supple-

mentary tax \$4, State tax \$1110.80, county tax \$761.20, and \$6,000 for the highways.

In August of this year the bonds of the town were issued in accord with the vote of the town at a meeting held on November 4, 1874, in aid of the railroad that was then coming to the town. These bonds were to run twenty years at six per cent. semi-annual interest. While it is true that the semi-annual payment of the interest and the final payment of the bond will be a heavy tax upon the town, there can be no question but it has proved a valuable investment for the inhabitants of the town.

In 1880 there were two thousand eight hundred and seven inhabitants in Fort Fairfield. The valuation of estates was \$468,471. N. Fessenden, R. L. Baker and B. W. Conant, were selectmen; W. T. Spear, clerk; and J. F. Hacker, treasurer. The cash assessment was \$8,377.52, as follows:

State tax \$1,387.60, county tax \$803.30, schools \$1,510.40, poor one thousand dollars, town expenses one thousand dollars, interest one thousand three hundred dollars, lighting bridge \$75, railroad sinking fund loan \$418.50, new roads \$500, overlaying \$382.72.

In 1885, the town made choice of L. N. Richards, C. E. Hoit and L. G. Richardson, for selectmen; J. F. Hacker, treasurer; H. N. Goodhue, town clerk; H. O. Perry supervisor. The valuation of estates was \$549,370, and the number

of polls six hundred and forty: the cash tax assessed for that year was \$13,456.77. The State tax had gone up to \$1,762 and the county tax to \$990, for the support of schools, \$2,245 and for a new schoolhouse in the village \$1,600, and the interest on the bonded debt was \$1,750. The support of the poor now cost the town about \$1,000 a year.

In 1890 the census returns gave Fort Fairfield three thousand five hundred and twenty-six inhabitants, seven hundred and five polls were assessed, and the real estate was assessed at \$464,158 and the personal property at \$148,100, making a total of \$614,258.

The cash tax for this year was \$15,548.23; a little over one third of this amount was included in the following five items, all for the advance of educational interest, viz:

For common schools \$2,800, for free high school \$750, to purchase free text books for schools \$600, finishing, furnishing, and repairing schoolhouses \$500, to build a schoolhouse in the Plummer district \$600, giving a total of \$5,250.

The purchase of a town farm for a home for the poor had added somewhat to the immediate expense, but had reduced the actual expenses for the year nearly three hundred dollars. The liberal school policy, the great amount of roads in the town six by twelve miles square, together with the bridges, necessarily keeps up the amount of money annually to be raised by the tax payers.

## CHAPTER XXII.

## ACTS OF INCORPORATION.

It was not until 1858 that definite action was taken to secure the organization of the town of Fort Fairfield, when the following act of incorporation was passed:

## STATE OF MAINE.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight,

An act to incorporate the town of Fort Fairfield.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:*

SECTION 1. So much of township Letter D, first range west from the east line of the State, in the county of Aroostook, as lies south of the Aroostook river, together with as much of the township granted to the town of Plymouth, as lies southeasterly of the same river, is hereby incorporated into a town by the name of Fort Fairfield, and the inhabitants of said town are hereby vested with all the powers, privileges, immunities and liabilities of inhabitants of other towns.

SECTION 2. Any justice of the peace within the county of Aroostook, is hereby empowered to issue his warrant to some inhabitant of said town, directing him to notify the inhabitants thereof to meet at such time and place as he shall appoint, to choose such officers as other towns are empowered to choose at their annual town meetings.

SECTION 3. The town hereby created shall take the effects belonging to plantation Letter D, and shall also assume all the obligations of said plantation.

SECTION. 4. This act shall take effect from and after its approval by the Governor.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
March 10, 1858. }

This bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Speaker.

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IN THE SENATE, }  
March 11, 1858. }

This bill, having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

SETH SCAMMON, President.

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March 11, 1858,  
Approved,

LOT M. MORRILL, Governor.



SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE, }

March 29, 1858. }

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original in this office.

LEWIS D. MOORE,  
Dept. Secretary of State.

On the 12th day of April, 1858, William F. Hopkinson, a justice of the peace, issued his warrant to Jonathan Hopkinson for a meeting to be held at the Black Schoolhouse, on Monday, the 19th day of April, at which time and place the meeting was held, and the town duly organized by the choice of the several town officers.

It was not until the necessity of a bridge over the Aroostook river had forced itself upon the inhabitants, that any serious thought had been given to enlarging the limits of the newly organized town. In the legislature of 1867 the following action in relation to the new town was taken:

## STATE OF MAINE.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven.

An act to annex Sarsfield plantation to the town of Fort Fairfield,

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Sarsfield plantation, composed of Plymouth Grant township, Range 1, west from the

east line of the State, is hereby annexed to the town of Fort Fairfield.

SECTION 2. All uncollected taxes legally assessed in said plantation, shall be collected by the collector in said plantation, and paid over to the treasurer of said town, and the highway surveyor shall account with the selectmen of said town, the same as they are now required to do with the assessors of said plantation; and said town shall assume and pay all debts and liabilities of every description, of said plantation, and may be sued therefore if not paid by them; and all rights of said plantation in lands sold or forfeited for taxes therein and not redeemed are hereby transferred to said town and vested in them as fully as the same are now held by said plantation.

SECTION 3. The school districts in said plantation shall remain as now organized until altered by said town.

SECTION 4. This act shall take affect when approved by the Governor.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, )  
February 11, 1867. }

This bill having had three several readings passed to be enacted.

LEWIS BARKER, Speaker.

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IN THE SENATE, )  
February 12, 1867. }

This bill having had two several readings passed to be enacted.

N. A. BURPEE, President.

February 12, 1867.

Approved,

J. L. CHAMBERLAIN, Governor.

STATE OF MAINE.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE. }

March 7, 1867. }

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original as deposited in this office.

JAMES H. COCHRANE,

Dept. Secretary of State.

At the same session of the legislature the following amended legislation to aid in the building of a bridge over the Aroostook river, was secured, viz:

STATE OF MAINE.

*Resolve*, Amending resolve entitled "Resolve in aid of building a bridge over Aroostook river at Fort Fairfield."

*Resolved*, That the conditions of resolve entitled "Resolve in aid of building a bridge over Aroostook river at Fort Fairfield," approved February twenty-third, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, be so far modified as to allow the land agent to pay the sum of fifteen hundred dollars when all necessary abutments and piers required in the erection of said bridge shall have been completed of said bridge and being the amount in full named in said resolve; and said bridge may be erected without requiring the same to be "covered" as implied in the resolve referred to; and that before the payment of any sum of money the selectmen of said town of Fort Fairfield shall certify to the

land agent that the abutments and piers have been completed, and in readiness to receive the superstructure, and in like manner when said bridge shall be completed according to the intention, but with the exception of the covering required in said resolve.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, )  
February 14, 1867. }

Read and passed.

LEWIS BARKER, Speaker.

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IN THE SENATE, )  
February 16, 1867. }

Read and passed.

N. A. BURPEE, President.

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February 18, 1867.

Approved.

J. L. CHAMBERLAIN, Governor.

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In addition to the above appropriation, the State paid \$1,000, and the bridge when completed cost about \$6,000. The building of the bridge, and making passable the roads in the town in addition to schools and other town expenses, proved a heavy tax upon the inhabitants of the young town. The records, however, show a spirit of enterprise and liberal appropriations for the various demands made upon them. In 1870 the population was eighteen

hundred and ninety-three, the number of polls three hundred and sixty, and the valuation \$276,800. At the March meeting of this year Hon. J. B. Trafton was chosen moderator, Henry W. Hyde clerk and A. P. Wellington, Isaac Hacker and R. L. Hoyt selectmen.

At this meeting the town voted to raise \$8,420, as follows: For the support of schools \$1,500, for the support of the poor \$350, to extinguish liabilities of the town in constructing bridge across the Aroostook river \$800, to cover the bridge \$1,000, to pay for right of way to the bridge \$20, to defray town charges for the year \$750, and for the repair of roads and bridges \$4,000. At this meeting the report of the selectmen and the school committee who had been appointed at a subsequent meeting, was adopted, by which a careful and more satisfactory districting of the town for school purposes was made. The whole number of school districts in the town was twenty; and the following names were presented to be placed in the juror box, and accepted by the town: Warren S. Ames, Otis Ames, Amos Bishop, Asa C. Cary, Joseph A. Conant, Bradford Cummings, Benoin T. Durgin, Charles W. Eastman, Valentine M. Estes, H. Lincoln Foster, Noah Goodrich, George W. Haines, John P. Holt, John Johnston, Jophannis H. Richardson and Jesse S. Averill.



## CHAPTER XXIII.

## ENTERPRISE.

At an early day some of Fort Fairfield's enterprising citizens began to realize the importance of a local newspaper, and after considerable discussion it was decided to arrange with the Rev. Daniel Stickney who for several years had published the *Sunrise* at Presque Isle, to publish a paper for Fort Fairfield. And in keeping with the arrangement the *Aurora*, dated and mailed at Fort Fairfield and printed in the *Sunrise* office at Presque Isle, with Daniel Stickney, editor, and Mrs. A. C. Paul, associate editor, appeared. In regard to the name the first issue said editorially:

## THE AURORA.

We have been frequently asked, what significance, fitness or appropriateness is there to the name "*Aurora*" for a newspaper? We will explain.

Aurora signifies the dawning light, before sunrise, daybreak, the morning. In ancient mythology she was the daughter of Hyperion and Theo, and

sister of Sol and Luna, or of the sun and moon. She rises from the ocean, drawn by the celestial horses, Lampus and Phæton, and with rosy fingers raises the veil of light, shedding light upon the world, until she flies from the splendor of day.

The above is the definition and the poetical idea of Aurora. Now for its significance, its appropriateness for the name of a paper, published at Fort Fairfield.

This village is farther north and east than any other village in this union in which a newspaper is published. In northern latitudes Aurora, or the light of morning, shines earlier upon Fort Fairfield than upon any spot in the United States in which a paper is published, hence the appropriateness of the first paper published in our village being known as the *Aurora*.

A careful examination of the file of this paper, in the office of the clerk of courts at Houlton, shows it to have been a well gotten up and ably conducted local newspaper; but to our surprise the amount of patronage, as expressed through its advertising columns, from the Fort Fairfield business men, did not exceed fifty dollars. How much the fact that it was printed in the *Sunrise* office at Presque Isle had to do with lack of support, we shall never know. That it died before six months old is no surprise.

#### THE FIRST NEWSPAPER.

In September, 1875, with the coming of the railroad, appeared the first newspaper published in

Fort Fairfield. The railroad was on the narrow gauge plan, but the paper was a broad gauge, clear-cut, clean sheet, filled to overflowing with good things of interest to the people of Fort Fairfield.

#### THE AROOSTOOK VALLEY SUNRISE.

After more than thirteen years of active newspaper life, the *Presque Isle Sunrise* was removed to Fort Fairfield and christened the *Aroostook Valley Sunrise*, and was the first newspaper ever printed in the town. Judging from the transpiring events, Mr. Stickney did not meet with the encouragement and support he had expected. In three months from its first appearance he sold out to his foreman, Charles E. Marshall. Mr. Marshall succeeded in publishing the paper only three weeks, before it failed up. Two months later Mr. Stickney was again at the helm, and the *Sunrise* shedding light on all around.

In August, 1877, Mr. Stickney finally sold out the *Sunrise* and retired from the editorial field, and Mr. Edward A. Lynde became editor and proprietor, and for between one and two years succeeded in running the paper, some of the time at least at a "poor dying rate." With the going out of its light, Fort Fairfield was without a local paper until in the summer of 1891, Mr. H. M. Orriss commenced the publication of the *Fort Fairfield Gazette*, which he succeeded in publishing for a little more than one year. In the right hands his enterprise would

have proved a success. But Mr. Orriss, who was an experienced book-binder, had very little experience as a newspaper man.

#### THE NORTHERN LEADER.

July 1st, 1892, with \$1,000 pledged advertising and a small subscription list, the Fort Fairfield Printing Company,—C. H. Ellis business manager and editor,—commenced the publication of the *Northern Leader*, at \$1.50 a year. Before the end of its first year, a second paper, the *Beacon* (which was another name for the *Aroostook Democrat*, which had entered upon its fourth volume,) was removed from Presque Isle to this village. With its coming commenced a struggle for life, and as might have been expected, with the advertising patronage largely secured for the *Leader*, the *Beacon* was compelled to submit to the inevitable; before the close of the first year it suspended publication. With the beginning of 1894 the *Leader* became self sustaining, and the liberal and judicious advertising by the business men of the village assure the future success of a local newspaper in Fort Fairfield.

#### THE RAILROAD.

The time had come when railroad communication with the outside world became a necessity. The town had been liberal in voting bonds, and the work rapidly carried towards completion, and the

## FIRST TRAIN OF CARS

crossed the boundary line on Saturday, November 13, 1875. This was a red letter day for the town, as it marked two important events,—the publication of the first newspaper and the arrival of the first railroad train. There was now a general looking forward to another interesting and important day, that would produce results of great moment to all the inhabitants of the town,—

## THE FORMAL OPENING

of the New Brunswick railroad. In all these years it had been a good three days going to Bangor. On Tuesday, November 30, 1875, the connection became complete by rail to the Queen City. It was a bleak, cold day, yet a large company assembled. Upon the arrival of the train, the "Stars and stripes" and the "Union Jack" were hoisted together, and the historic gun of Fort Fairfield belched forth its thunder in a national salute. At the town hall Judge Small presided. Among the Provincial guests were Hon. Alexander Gibson, president of the New Brunswick railroad, Hon. J. J. Frazier, Provincial secretary, Hon. B. B. Stevenson, surveyor general, Hon. Wm. Kelley, commissioner of public works, Hon. Mayor Wetmore of Fredericton, Hon. Mayor Laughton of St. John, members of parliament, editors of newspapers, railroad officials and other distinguished gentlemen.







THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

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Speeches were made by President Gibson, Judge Fisher of Frederickton and Hon. F. A. Pike of Calais. A bountiful collation was served, and at six P. M. the company adjourned to the depot for their return trip, leaving their Fort Fairfield friends in the happy consciousness that they were connected with the outside world by rail.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

## THE POTATO INDUSTRY.

The adaptation of Aroostook soil to the growth of the potato was early observed by the settlers, but it was not until Mr. B. Gathercole had built his starch factory that any one thought that potato raising would ever become a money-making, much less the leading, industry of the Aroostook valley. One of the peculiarities of the Yankee is, that if one succeeds in getting a good thing, he is never allowed to enjoy it alone. This first starch factory was scarcely in operation before Mr. Bedell had one commenced in the Maple Grove settlement. These were the days of small things; but with a sure market for the small potatoes at a price which would nearly pay for harvesting the entire crop, and a reasonable assurance that a market would always be open to them, at a good paying price, for all the potatoes they could raise, the two starch factories became four, and the fame of the Aroostook potato went out to all the land.

The one obstacle in the way of success appeared

to be the drain made upon the land in the raising of this crop. The amount of potash, to say nothing of the nitrogen and phosphoric acid that a crop of potatoes would take from the soil, convinced them that without some immediate remedy their farms would soon run out. A prompt and successful remedy was soon at hand; while there was suspicion and a liberal amount of doubt as to their value, commercial fertilizers have steadily increased in popularity, and to-day have become an absolute necessity to secure the best results in this great and valuable industry. For a decade each year's crop of potatoes has exceeded the last, and while there has been considerable fluctuation in prices, the sales have been, almost without an exception, at a price that paid a liberal profit, above the cost of production. Each year adds to the strength and popularity of potato raising in the Aroostook valley, and with the coming of the Bangor and Aroostook railroad, already completed to Houlton, and with the best assurance that it will reach this town early next summer, the farmers (if one can judge from the amount of commercial fertilizers being shipped into the county) intend to largely increase the acreage of this valuable crop for 1894. Aside from lands near large cities and manufacturing centres, none pay so large a profit as those from which a well cultivated crop of potatoes is taken. While at the present time it is doubtful if the average



Aroostook farmer raised more than two hundred bushels of potatoes per acre, there are instances where, by thorough cultivation and the liberal use of fertilizer, have been produced between seven and eight hundred bushels, and it is the judgement of some of our most experienced and practical farmers, that every acre of land should yield at least one hundred barrels of good, marketable potatoes; and it is due to some of our enterprising and progressive farmers to say that they have not only reached that amount, but on an average exceed it.

While Aroostook farmers have largely been content with the cultivation of small farms, they have become large potato raisers. Twenty acres of potatoes is a very common crop for a Fort Fairfield farmer, and forty or fifty acres has become too common to attract attention.

The growth of this industry has been quite rapid but healthy, until the present vast proportions have been reached, leading all others and making Aroostook farming, in proportion to its acreage, equal to any in the United States.

The western farmer has been contented and happy with a yield of twenty-five bushels of wheat per acre, and in the home market selling at one dollar per bushel, and if that state of things had continued there never would have been an uprising of farmers, and a political farmers' organization.

The Fort Fairfield farmer, year after year sells from his well cultivated potato field seventy-five barrels of merchantable potatoes, at an average of one dollar and fifty cents per barrel, amounting to one hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents per acre. In the town of Fort Fairfield, in the year 1893, there were six starch factories in active operation and estimated, ten thousand tons of starch put on the market and nine million six hundred ninety-six thousand nine hundred sixty-nine barrels of potatoes shipped to the Boston market, estimated price \$1.50 per barrel. The future of this industry seems absolutely assured, and the success of farming in this northern latitude will keep step with the best paying industries of the country. The introduction of labor saving machinery has produced two marked results. First, the land is more carefully prepared and more thoroughly cultivated, and secondly, the potatoes are raised and put upon the market at considerably less cost. Potatoes are now dropped and covered and the fertilizer distributed by a two horse planter that will do the work of ten men. Mr. Fred M. Haines of Fort Fairfield has invented a wheel horse-hoe and fertilizer that will remove the weeds, stir the soil, and distribute the fertilizer better than it can possibly be done by hand, and do the work of eight or ten men, with one man and a horse. The four-horse potato digger gets over a very large breadth of

land in a day, and leaves the potatoes in good condition to pick, and it is claimed to injure less potatoes, while it gathers them nearly as clean as can be done by hand work.

Another thing in favor, and that goes a long way in making popular this industry, is the fact that it gives employment extending through many months of the year. The preparation of the ground, the planting and cultivation of the crops, is followed only by a short rest before the harvest commences, which includes putting the marketable potatoes in the cellar or the potato houses, and hauling the small and inferior ones to the starch factory; then the time of fall plowing and initiatory work for another crop, and the work of hauling and marketing the potatoes is taken up, to continue through the winter and early spring, and often extending late into April, and sometimes into May; when the work of raising another crop should be fully in hand. The climate, adaptation of soil, and habits of the people have all combined to favor the value of the crop and give it the lead in the market, and the advantage already secured in the hands of the intelligent, industrious and enterprising tillers of the Aroostook soil, will undoubtedly hold the trade, and the ever increasing market will in the future, as in the past, keep up both the demand and the price.

Within the last few years farms have been sold

in Fort Fairfield for from \$4,000 to \$6,000, containing from two to three hundred acres, with good farm buildings, and with one hundred acres or more of improved land, and the potatoes taken from the farms, in two years have paid the entire amount of purchase money. While it is not necessary so far as the present is concerned, the fact should not be overlooked that the farmers of Fort Fairfield are not exclusively engaged in raising potatoes. They do not lose sight of the well established theory of rotation in crops. Hay has been, and will continue to be, an important and profitable crop, and a good price will be paid for oats, as long as lumbering operations are carried on; and as there is more or less land that is remarkably well adapted for grazing, the raising of neat stock and horses does, and undoubtedly will continue to receive, considerable attention.

In concluding this chapter, we call attention to the engraving representing a potato harvest scene. While for the Aroostook farmer of 1894 it may attract but little attention, to future generations it will at least give an idea of the progress made and enterprise displayed by the cultivators of the present day.

The industry occupies so important a relation to the development of Aroostook county, that we have had taken two street views, representing the potato teams crowding up to the potato houses, and the

streets full of sleds from which the horses have been taken at the dinner hour.

The records of two days in March, 1894, show the sale of three thousand five hundred and four thousand barrels respectively, sold and delivered in the Fort Fairfield potato market. \$6,000 paid to the farmers in one day alone, for one article of produce from these farms, is one of the results of this industry.







## CHAPTER XXV.

## PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

In turning back for a survey of the changing events that make up the history of our town and village, we shall find a field of interesting and stirring scenes opening up before us. Arbitrarily, and to suit our own purpose, we fix the past of half a century from 1840 to 1890. So much as comes within the present decade, or may transpire before its close, we will recognize as the present, and pass over to the speculative future, all that shall come after.

Until 1840 very little was known of any of the vast territory lying north of Houlton, and now in Aroostook county. The active living past of Fort Fairfield, the settlement, growth and prosperity of the northern frontier town of the north-eastern state of the American Union, commenced in the year A. D., 1840.

While it is true that in 1806, a grant of a part of the territory embraced in this town was located, surveyed, and conveyed to an incorporation by the

commonwealth of Massachusetts, it was not until the settlement of the northeastern boundary, and the ratification of the Webster-Ashburton treaty, that they came into actual possession, and when that settlement was made, more than one twelveth of the original Plymouth Grant was upon the wrong side of the national boundary to be of any practical use or benefit.

Before that time valuable pine timber had been cut and hauled to the Aroostook river, which makes a grand sweep of nearly twelve miles through its territory, by the inhabitants of the adjoining province of New Brunswick, who had settled along its banks for the purpose of lumbering, and depended upon that business for a living. They had made only small improvements upon the land they occupied, some few by grant from the government, and others only acquiring a squatter's right. This in the strictest sense was an English settlement, owing allegiance to the British crown, without a thought that they were trespassers upon foreign territory. Subsequently, about 1835 or 1836, an American settlement had been made farther up the Aroostook river, and General Wellington had purchased what is now the town of Monticello, and Dennis Fairbanks had pushed through still farther north and settled upon the Presque Isle stream, about a mile from its confluence with the Aroostook river.

The boundary line between Maine and New

Brunswick, which had been established by treaty, to the headwaters of the St. Croix river, where a monument was set, from that point north had become a question of dispute.

The fact that an English settlement had been made, and the timber being cut off and run down the Aroostook and St. John river, to the English timber market, increased the difficulty, until in the winter of 1839 the land agent of the State of Maine, with a considerable militia force, proceeded to the disputed territory for the purpose of driving off the trespassers, confiscating their teams and taking possession of this lumber. For this purpose a fort was erected upon what will always be known as "Fort" hill; a blockhouse where Mr. Arthur P. Libby's house now stands, and a boom across the river to hold the trespass timber. A road was also cut from the Fort, which had been named for the Hon. John Fairfield, who was then governor of the State of Maine. The men who had been drafted, and compelled to make the long and tedious journey into the vast wilderness, formed a very favorable opinion of the country. They brought back to their homes a good report of the new country, and aided by the liberal offer of almost the gift of a home in the northern wilderness, within a very short time the number of American settlers was numerous enough to introduce and sustain schools and churches, and make their influence felt both



socially and politically. As early as 1844 political parties were organized, and the discussion of political questions was freely entered upon. Little by little the foreign element, made citizens by the Webster-Ashburton treaty, became Americanized.

Our common schools, aided by intermarriage, in a few short years almost entirely blotted out sectional lines and made one people of the two antagonizing classes that made up the society of 1840.

The heavy growth of timber to remove, the early frosts and long winters, together with the great distance from market, were obstacles hard to overcome, and placed the early settlers at a great disadvantage.

At the end of the first decade some had become discouraged and returned to their former homes, and others would have done so if they had not been without the means, and possibly had no former home to go to. Every acre cleared let in additional sunlight, every day's work on the road made the relative distance from the outside world less, every day's work on the farm or buildings, added to comfort and the prospect of living. At the end of the second decade the people of Aroostook began to add to the necessities, some of the comforts of life. Abundant returns were received by the husbandman, many farms had been opened up, and as a whole, the people of North Aroostook were in a

prosperous condition. Not only had the people been trained to hardships and privations, but to devotion to their country and their homes. The times, circumstances and conditions all encouraged the growth of patriotism, and when the tocsin of war was sounded, when the old flag, the "star spangled banner," was assailed, home and farm and loved ones were abandoned, and the work of defending the flag and preserving the Union became the one thought and the one work of these men who felt called to a greater work than clearing land and making homes. From no part of the country did so large a *pro rata* of the population enter the army as from the northern portion of Aroostook county, while no part of the entire land was so illy prepared to spare them. It is indeed doubtful if any part of the entire North felt the effect of the war so severely as Aroostook county.

From no portion of our country were stronger and more self-reliant men sent forth to battle, and from no part was the *pro rata* of loss greater. These men went forth to do and to die, if need be, that the country might live. Before there was a full recovery from the shock of war, another decade had nearly passed away. Since 1870, there has been a steady and rapid growth. The coming of the railroad made the export of agricultural productions not only possible but profitable. The manufacturing of short lumber became profitable,

and potato raising took the very first rank in agricultural work.

Quietly, and without any great pretensions, there has been a steady advance "all along the line;" more acres were brought under cultivation, larger and better buildings were erected with pleasanter surroundings, until well furnished, beautifully located and delightful homes, form a grand panorama upon every hillside, and along every valley, and make it in all that the words imply,—the "Garden of Maine." The extensive farming industry has made centres of trade a necessity. Villages have been built up, as the natural result of the large breadth of rich, fertile land, and its adaptation to the raising in abundance, crops for which good prices and a ready market is ever at hand. The necessary accompaniment, intelligent, enterprising, industrious farmers, have not been found wanting, and to-day one may travel the world over without finding such returns for the money invested, as can be secured from an Aroostook farm. Land that to-day is in a state of cultivation, from which one hundred barrels of potatoes can be harvested, selling at forty dollars an acre, makes it doubly sure that the profit of a single crop, will considerably more than pay for the land upon which it was raised.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

## FORT FAIRFIELD IN THE WAR.

The political campaign which culminated in the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency, found Fort Fairfield in the best possible condition to wield an influence in favor of his administration. From 1840 Capt. Stephen B. Pattee and Almon S. Richards had been steady and persistent political workers, thoroughly devoted to Whig principles, and upon the breaking up of the Whig party, they became active and efficient Republicans. Then came Hon. Isaac Hacker, Hon. Jesse Drew, Hon. Washington Long and William Small, Esq., all active and efficient workers for free speech, free institutions, and a "government of the people, by the people and for the people." And not only did they talk and vote for President Lincoln, but they worked to sustain him in the great national struggle to maintain the government, in harmony with the platform upon which he had been elected, and to perpetuate the Union. Their field of operation was favorable for effective work. From their own

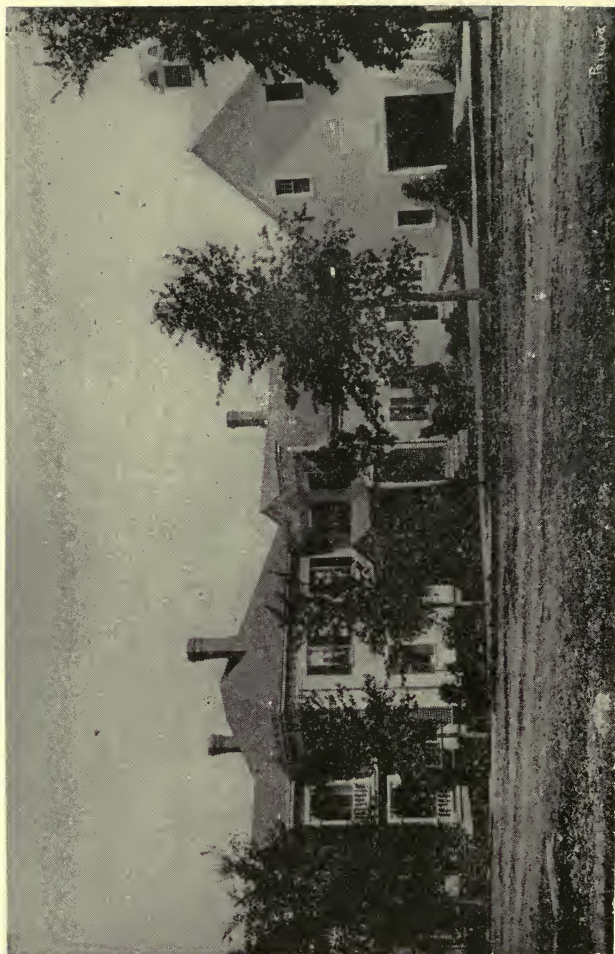
town and the adjoining parishes in New Brunswick, men were easily secured for the volunteer force, that gave our county the post of honor in sending the most men to the war, in proportion to the population, of any county in the Union. Their influence went out and was felt in the adjoining towns and in our sister province. Fort Fairfield was pre-eminently loyal, not only to the Union cause, but to the principles involved.

From first to last, whether flushed by victory or depressed by disaster, her sons were ready to brave the dangers of the battle-field, and if need be, give their lives, that the nation might live. Her roll of honor stands upon the national record. The names of her honored sons were found in nearly all the State organizations.

Her heroic dead, and her wounded and disabled veterans, represent almost every family of that day. From the adjutant general's reports, and other sources, we are able to give the following imperfect record of soldiers who went to the war from this town, but as in many instances, they went to make up the quota of other towns, we find it impossible at this late day to give all; and as many of the soldiers and their friends have failed to respond to the request made of them through the *Northern Leader*, the local paper of the town, no doubt some at least, will feel an injustice has been done.







L. K. CARY'S RESIDENCE.

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Franklin M. Drew, captain and major in the 15th Maine Regiment; C. H. Ellis, chaplain in the 11th, and captain in the 31st Maine Regiment; Oscar A. Ellis, 2d and 1st lieutenant, and captain in the 1st Maine Cavalry; Elbridge J. Pattee, 2d and first lieutenant, and captain in the 15th Maine Regiment; Albert W. Hoyt, 2d and 1st lieutenant in the 15th Maine Regiment; Whitman L. Orcutt, 2d and 1st lieutenant in the 15 Maine Regiment. Chandler Libby, 2d lieutenant in the 10th Maine Regiment.

## NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Daniel W. Haines, sergeant, Co. E, 1st Maine Cavalry; Alexander McDougald, sergeant, Co. E, 1st Maine Cavalry; Albert Gardiner, corporal, Co. E, 1st Maine Cavalry; Shepherd R. Hoyt, sergeant, Co. E, 15th Maine Regiment; Charles L. Hoyt, sergeant, Co. E, 15th Maine Regiment; John W. Whitten, sergeant, Co. E, 15th Regiment; Alfred Marshall, corporal, Co. E, 15th Regiment; James Doran, corporal, Co. E, 15th Me. Regiment; Sanborn Murphy, corporal, 15th Regiment; James F. Luce, sergeant, Co. E, 31st Regiment; Albert Sibly, corporal, Co. E, 31st Maine Regiment; Charles V. Ellis, corporal, Co. E, 31st Regiment.

## PRIVATEES.

1st Maine Cavalry: Hiram H. Ellis, Albert L.

Haines, John Decker, Edward Decker, Asa E. Davis, R. E. Orcutt, John Carrier and John Gallagher.

2d Maine Cavalry: Abraham R. Powers, Joseph L. Whitmore.

1st District Columbia Cavalry: Richard Norris, sergeant.

5th Maine Battery: Alden C. Varney.

1st Maine Veteran Infantry: William Knight, James Johnston.

3d Maine Regiment: Richard Harmon, Abel Humphrey, John B. Willette.

4th Maine Regiment: John A. Day.

7th Maine Regiment: Uriah Palmer.

10th Maine Regiment: Warren Harmon, Edward Ross, Simon Giberson, Nelson McNeil.

11th Maine Regiment: George W. Eastman, Samuel G. Richardson, Amos Fitzherbert, George Guiggey, Aaron Gomery, Moses Grass.

15th Maine Regiment: Almon Waite, George E. Drew, Joseph E. Drew, Lewis Myshrall, Warren Fifield, Charles A. Grass, Fabian Crock, Geo. Martin, John Lundy, Stephen S. McDougald, Jas. Crock, John W. Pickles, Ransom N. Pierce, Fernando Bolster, Joseph Bolier, Amos Bolier, Phillip Bolier, Thomas Crock, Ozias Darton, Thos. Dunnell, Jeremiah Farwell, Daniel Finn, Chas. A. Grass, Enoch B. Grass, George A. Groves, Wm. Lundy, George N. Boltridge, Samuel Fitzherbert,

George E. Park, Joseph E. Dow, Patrick F. O'Hara, Benjamin W. Pettingill, Edward Murphy.

16th Maine Regiment: Erastus Rogers, John L. Rogers, Nicholas Dee, Thomas Lyons, Warren A. Johnston, Daniel Hopkins, Daniel Webb, Roderick Powers, Wesley Chase, John S. Corless, James Rediker, Nicholas McKinney, James mckinney, Henry Hopkinson, Edward Ross, Nathanael Lufkin, Alfred Bishop, Frederick Bishop, Simeon B. Fulson, Noah Goodrich, William Hally, Michael Bolier, Henry Grass, Daniel Foss.

17th Maine Regiment: John P. Frink, Fred Haines, Michael Russell, Thomas Russell, Patrick Russell, Bartlett, Rediker.

20th Maine Regiment: Richard Powers, Granville Hopkinson, Charles E. Hoit, Henry Powers, Philo Hewett, John Riley.

22d Maine Regiment: Joseph A. Conant, Joshua Hoyt, Orrin Hoyt, LaForest V. Towle, Charles H. Townsend, Amos Pyle.

30th Maine Regiment: William Russell.

31st Maine Regiment: Asa S. Townsend, George W. Curtis, Joseph P. Pyle, Wm. F. Dolley, Lorin F. Johnston, William J. Sawyer, Daniel Whitmore, James F. Springer, Asa C. Wentworth, Addison Wright.

While the record of the Maine regiments stands in the front rank of the mighty force raised to maintain the national unity, the 1st Maine cavalry,



for long service, hard marches and effective work upon the battle-field, had no equal. Fort Fairfield's quota to this regiment was made up of young men who stood among the best; all of whom did noble service for their country, and have left a record for future generations that should be written in letters of light.

Her sons were among the best in the several regiments to which they were assigned; physically, perfect men, who went forth to do or to die, never faltering upon the march, and in the camp or on the battle-field discharging their duty in a manner that won the commendations of the generals of the army.

Not a call for men was made by the government that was not heartily responded to by the loyal men of our town, often going to make up the quota, and filling the places left vacant by other older and more populous towns; and by so doing not only did the weary marching and hard fighting for others, but lost the identity of their army life with their own town.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

## FIFTEENTH MAINE REGIMENT.

It was not until the organization of the 15th Regiment, that Fort Fairfield got down to earnest work. In fact, up to this time the war had been looked upon as of short duration, and the opinion had prevailed that the demand for troops was of so small account that it was not worth the while to make any earnest effort. But the fact became more and more apparent that a serious and desperate struggle was before us. Col. John McCluskey, a popular lumberman, was authorized to organize a regiment. It was both right and proper that the active Republican leaders, whose age and infirmities unfitted them to go to the front, should, so far as they had sons, give them as a free-will offering to their country's cause. And sons with such sires, were only too ready to do with might and main; to preserve the national life. Backed by family influence, Franklin Drew, Elbridge G. Pattee and Albert Hoyt, were active co-workers

to aid in the work, and readily secured from among their young friends and acquaintances, a large and respectable following.

The stern realities of the war had been forced home upon them, and the men who gave their names for the organization of this regiment, did it with the full realization of what was before them, so far as the march and battle-field were concerned. But their first experience upon the transports, and a voyage to the Gulf of Mexico, and the great change to the extreme heat and exposure of a climate which was absolutely foreign to them, was a hardship that told more severely upon them, than upon almost any other regiment that ever entered the service. Not only did Fort Fairfield send almost the last available man into this regiment, but it was a popular rendezvous for recruiting. Eaton Grant, Caribou, Sarsfield, Limestone, Van Buren and our sister Province, if not invaded when their sons came to our town, they found public sentiment so strong, and influences almost irresistible surrounding them, that many were induced to yield to the stronger force and enlist for the war. While before and after, upper Aroostook furnished honored names to other organizations, in fact to almost all that entered the field from our state, the 15th was emphatically our regiment, and no history of our town can be complete without being interwoven with its honored record.

The organization of the 1st Maine Cavalry, the 11th, 12th 13th and 14th regiments, had followed each other in such rapid succession as to be almost simultaneous. Maine's war governor, Israel Washburn, Jr., seconded by the able and efficient adjutant general, John L. Hodsdon, was putting forth every effort to respond to the country's call. With each regiment that entered the field, the war cloud seemed to lower. News from the seat of war were of a depressing character. Bull Run and Ball's Bluff, the death of the patriotic Lyons, the Mason-Slidell complication, the disastrous drawn battles and skirmishes in Missouri, had thrown a dark cloud over the entire North. Amidst all this darkness and discouragement to the Union cause, the authority from the governor was received in October to organize the 15th regiment, and the first week in November saw large detachments of troops gathered at Augusta. December 6th, 7th and 9th, companies A, B and C were mustered into the United States service, and before the month ended, men were mustered into every company, and by January 16th 1862, the regimental organization was completed. These two months, however, were not lost time. Under the management of such officers as were entitled to muster before a full regiment had been secured, drill and discipline had been carefully attended to, and thus the foundation laid for future work. Of this regiment, companies

C, E and G, and a part of F, were from Aroostook county.

The first officers of these companies were as follows: Co. C, Charles W. Clayton of Masardis, captain; Daniel Prescott of Presque Isle, 1st lieutenant; Zebulan Rowe of Presque Isle, 2d lieutenant.

Co. E, Charles B. Smith of Houlton, captain; John Z. Swanton of Houlton, 1st lieutenant; Albert Hoyt of Fort Fairfield, 2d lieutenant.

Company F: James W. Hackett of Houlton, 1st lieutenant.; company G, Franklin Drew of Fort Fairfield, captain; Ransom N. Pierce of Fort Fairfield, 1st lieutenant; Elbridge G. Pattee of Fort Fairfield, 2d lieutenant. Subsequently Warren Plummer of Presque Isle, and Whitman L. Orcutt of Fort Fairfield, were promoted to 2d and 1st lieutenants in company C, and Cyrus E. Knight of Presque Isle, 1st lieutenant, and captain in company F.

On February 26th, 1862, the regiment broke camp at Augusta and took the train for Portland, where they expected to immediately take transport to New Orleans. There was, however, a delay of a week, with very uncomfortable quarters before they were on shipboard, and then twenty-eight days on the ocean, followed by six weeks on Ship island, at the mouth of the Mississippi. Then a trip up the river to New Orleans, that should have been made in twenty-four hours, that occupied







E. E. SCATE'S RESIDENCE.

twelve full days. The summer of 1862 was spent in camp near New Orleans, and the climatic change and the southern malaria were as hard to face, and almost as destructive, as the battle. Early in September a change came: another shipboard and sea voyage to Pensacola, on the western coast of Florida. Here the regiment found a healthy location, and spent a very comfortable winter, remaining until June, 1863, when the order came to return to New Orleans.

From June to November the regiment was in active service. While it was not called upon to do any great amount of fighting, long marches, severe guard duty, broken up into detachments to protect the main army from a sudden and unexpected attack, upon low and marshy ground, with the insidious enemy, malarial fever, upon every hand, their ranks were thinned by sickness and death. November found them upon transports on their way to Texas; a landing was soon effected upon Brazos Island, near the mouth of the Rio Grande, the extreme southwestern point in Texas. November 15th, they were on the march along the coast to Mustang island. Fort Semmes was captured, and a week later they were on Matagorda island. Fort Esperanza is captured, troops are stationed upon the mainland. and the best harbor on the Texan coast is in our possession. February 29th, 1864, found them on a transport starting on

their return trip to New Orleans; then up the river, and were active participants in the Red river campaign.

Long marches and hard fights, in which the regiment faithfully discharged its duty, is applicable to the Red river campaign. In the disastrous Sabine Cross Road fight, the Bull Run of the expedition, the 15th was in Emery's Division, and nobly performed their part in saving the retreating army from being totally destroyed, and made Pleasant Grove the turning point in the ground lost at Sabine Cross Road.

In the hotly contested battle at Pleasant Hill the regiment was in the thickest of the fight; in fact, at the most critical moment, under the masterly management of Colonel Dyer and Lieutenant-Colonel Murray, their unyielding and persistent work turned the tide of battle in our favor.

If there was a prominent officer in that expedition who returned with additional honors won, that officer was Brigadier-General William H. Emery, the commander of Emery's Division of the 19th Army Corps. In the second brigade of this division, the 15th Maine performed its whole duty; whether upon the march, building the dam to raise the Red river that the gunboats might be saved, or before the enemy, they did their whole duty; and what that whole duty was, is best told in the following general order issued at the close of the

campaign and just before leaving for the Army of the Potomac.

“GENERAL ORDER No. 48.

HEADQUARTERS 19th ARMY CORPS,  
SEMMESPORT, LA.,

May 18th, 1864.

“*Soldiers of the 1st and 2d Divisions 19th Army Corps*:—It is my duty to express to you my appreciation of your uniform good conduct throughout the late eventful campaign. This duty is rendered the more imperative by the false reports of your operations which have met you at this point.

“On the 7th of April, at the first notice that our troops in front were engaged, the First Division, the only troops of the 19th Corps then present, marched in double quick time seven miles to the front, formed a line of battle under fire of the enemy, checked him, and drove him back, under circumstances the most trying that could befall troops. The whole advance, composed of eight or ten thousand troops, were thrown back upon you in utter disorder and confusion, pell-mell, with the enemy. You formed line of battle under his fire, and amidst this frightful disorder, with the regularity of forming for parade, you drove the enemy from before you, and held the ground until ordered to fall back.

“The next day, at Pleasant Hill, you of the First Division bore the brunt of the enemy’s furious at-



tack; and only one brigade—that on the left—gave way, because its left was unsupported; but this soon rallied and joined in the final charge which drove the enemy from the field.

“On the 23d, at Cane River, you, supported by the 13th Army Corps, found the enemy strongly posted to dispute the crossing of the river. Led by the Third Brigade of the 1st Division, you turned his flank and drove him at the point of the bayonet from the hill he occupied.

“At Alexandria, you contributed your labor, by day and night, for seventeen days, under the engineering skill of Lieutenant-Colonel Bailey, to the great work which relieved the fleet from its perilous position above the falls, and restored it to the country.

“At Mansura, on the 1st of May, you met the enemy on an open plain, and supported on your right by the Sixteenth Army Corps, drove him from the field.

“This in brief, is a summary of your services for the last two months, and I know, when it becomes known to the country, the judgement will be that you, at least, have done your duty faithfully.

(Signed.) WM. H. EMERY,

Brig.-General Commanding.

Official.

DUNCAN S. WALKER,

Asst.-Adjt. General.”

Only a brief rest in camp at Morganzia Bend upon the banks of the Mississippi, and they were hurried upon transports, with sealed orders that were not to be opened until after the pilots had been dismissed at the mouth of the Mississippi, and when opened, proved their destination to be to Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac and the James. Here the regiment was divided. One battalion under the command of Col. Dyer upon one boat, and the other under command of Lieutenant-Col. Murray, accompanied by Major Frank M. Drew, upon another.

No sooner arrived than they were hurried forward to strengthen the army in West Virginia. Then they had severe campaigning up and down the valley of the Shenandoah, after the omnipresent Early, who never failed to run away, but did not fail to fight another day, until his victory was turned into defeat by Sheridan's triumphant ride from Winchester. After the fall of Richmond, the 15th was ordered to Washington, and here we might expect that the work would close, but not so. After six weeks at the national capital they were treated to another sea voyage, not however, to the Gulf, but to Savannah, Georgia, and from there to Georgetown, where they were required to perform a full year of duty under the commander of the military district of South Carolina. This, one of the most delicate and difficult duties that had

fallen to their lot, was successfully performed.

While for physical indurance, it is doubtful if any regiment leaving the State was its superior; the positions it occupied and the work it performed taxed its strength beyond any other, and although its number of killed and wounded was comparatively small, its loss by disease and death was really appalling. The Adjutant-General's report shows the following record of deaths in the service: Co. A, twenty-eight; Co. B, twenty-five; Co. C, thirty-one; Co. D, thirty-nine; Co. E, forty-eight; Co. F, thirty-two; Co. G, thirty-four; Co. H, thirty-six; Co. I, twenty-eight; Co. K, thirty-eight. A total of three hundred and thirty-nine deaths, and two hundred and ninety-five were discharged for disability.

If we follow the regiment from the spring of 1862, in its voyages by sea, its marches by land upon the dreary plains of Texas, and under the burning tropical sun, and among the swamps and lagoons of Louisiana, and its summer in South Carolina, we may only wonder that the number of disabled did not comprise the entire regiment.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

## THIRTY-FIRST MAINE REGIMENT.

In the winter of 1864 the war department made a requisition upon the State of Maine for two more regiments of men for the war. The terrible drain made upon the able bodied men in Aroostook county, raised the question of the advisability of assigning one of the companies to that county. Under these circumstances, Governor Coney offered a commission to C. H. Ellis, who had served as chaplain in the 11th and had considerable experience in enlisting men for the army. A leave of absence from the army hospital at Portland, where he was then employed, a brief interview with the governor at Augusta, and he was on his way to his home at Maple Grove. The third day of weary staging from Bangor was fast wearing away, when a halt was called to change mail at a private house in a small opening, in the township of Mars Hill. A good look and a few words with the acting postmaster, and a stop was made until the next day.

Before the close of that day, the enlistment papers of Henry O. Perry and two or three of his neighbors were made out and signed, and the work of organizing Co. E, 31st Maine Regiment, had taken tangible form.

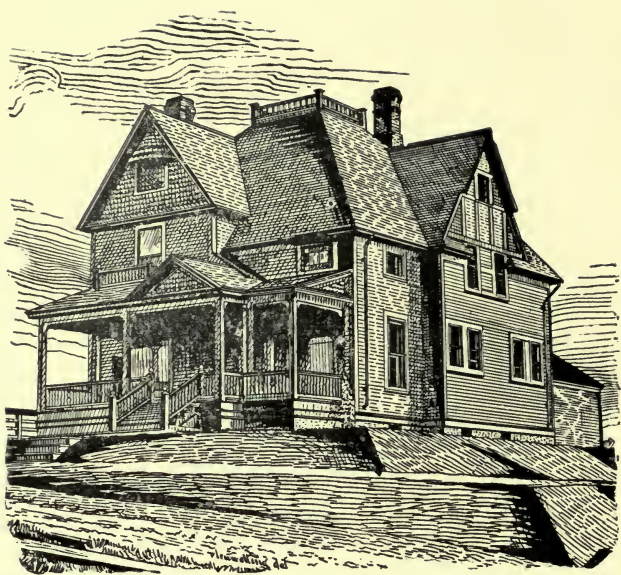
Before leaving Augusta, an interview had been held with Dr. Rogers of Patten, and an agreement made to give his son, Edwin S. Rogers, a lieutenant's commission, upon the condition that he enlisted twenty men. The work went rapidly forward.

The great distance from the capital of the State, where the men went into camp until the organization of the regiment was perfected, placed the company at a disadvantage, and although no company was enlisted as promptly, it was the fifth company to be mustered into service. Lieutenant Rogers, who was an undergraduate at Bowdoin college, immediately reported at the camp at Augusta, and his father at Patten largely did the work of enlisting the men.

On the 18th of April, 1864, the regiment, consisting of nine companies and thirty-four commissioned officers, left Augusta (Company K joined the regiment at the North Anna, the last of May) in time to join Burnside at Annapolis, and proceed to the Rapidan in time to take an active part in the battle of the Wilderness on the 16th of May. Among the officers of the regiment there were







E. L. HOUGHTON'S RESIDENCE.

very few men without experience, not only in camp and upon the march, but on the battle-field. With one or two exceptions, the captains of the several companies were competent to lead the regiment into action. Henry O. Perry, the first man enlisted in the company, was made orderly sergeant, and very largely the care of the men was in his hands. Sergeant Perry almost from the first had the full confidence of both officers and men. He kept the roll of the company, looked after drawing rations for the men, and a really sick or disabled soldier found in him a true friend.

No company in the regiment was better provided for, and no soldier ever gave better assurance that his promotion to office would be both in the interest of the government, and the soldiers under his command. In the Wilderness, at Spottsylvania, at the North Anna and Cold Harbor, the 3<sup>rd</sup> was given all the work they could do. In the battle of the Wilderness the loss was twenty-nine, and Capt. A. H. Packard and Lieutenant A. J. Snow were killed. At 5 o'clock A. M., on the morning of May 12th, the regiment made its assault upon the famous Bloody Angle, and drove the enemy and took possession of their works, but not being properly supported they fell back, and in advance of our regular line, and only a few rods from the enemy's work, threw up intrenchments and held the ground for six days. Again on the 18th,

three successive assaults were made upon the enemy's work, with the terrible loss of one hundred and sixty-five men. Ten were killed outright and eighteen died of their wounds. Among the number was Captain A. K. P. Wallace of Company B. The last charge at Spottsylvania, which was on the line of the McCook House, was made just one month after the regiment marched out of Augusta to the tune of "The Girl I Left Behind Me." During that month over one seventh of its men had fallen in battle. At the North Anna the regiment was pressed forward to the front and assigned a position at the extreme right of the line, and when the order came in the night to fall back, it obeyed the order like veterans, and was the last to re-cross the Chesterfield bridge. At the North Anna, Lieutenant W. O. Tibbetts and four men were killed and several wounded. On the 2d of June, after a few hours' march, they were upon the Cold Harbor battlefield, but it was not until the memorable morning of the 3d, that they were actively engaged. After driving in the enemy's pickets, a line of battle was formed, and companies E and G, Captains Ellis and Getchell commanding, were ordered to form in skirmish line covering the entire front of the regimental line, and advance, supported by the regiment. In this charge there were twenty-nine killed and forty-one wounded. Capt. James M. Williams and Lieu-

tenant Charles A. Farrington were among the number killed.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, while intrenched near the Cold Harbor battle-field, Lieutenant Edwin S. Rogers of Co. E, who had been detailed to command Co. C,—which found itself without a commissioned officer able to report for duty—was in command of the picket line when a fierce attack was made upon the line, which resulted in the line being broken and driven in, and Lieutenant Rogers being wounded and taken prisoner. Capt. Ellis with Co. E was ordered to make a counter charge and restore and re-establish the picket line. In this encounter, several men were killed and Capt. C. H. Ellis dangerously wounded.

On that day 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Sheahan, who had been discharged from the 1<sup>st</sup> Maine Cavalry to accept a commission, joined the regiment. Sergeant Perry, however, had largely the interests and command of the regiment upon his hands, and should have been immediately promoted to the captaincy.

It was not until October the 7<sup>th</sup> that Capt. Ellis was able to report at the Annapolis hospital. Upon his arrival there, and examination by the surgeon, it was decided that his disability was permanent, and by special order of the secretary of war, he was discharged from service. Soon after the 32<sup>d</sup> Maine Regiment was consolidated with the 31<sup>st</sup>, Capt. Keys of Co. E, 32<sup>d</sup>, was given command of Co.



E, 31st, and as it was several months before the war department was satisfied of the death of Lieutenant Rogers, there was necessarily a delay before Sergeant Perry got his commission.

After the battle of the 3d of June, and only six weeks after leaving Maine, they had borne themselves so grandly, and fought so bravely, that General Griffin, then brigade commander, said, "the 31st has won for its officers and men imperishable renown." On the 17th of June, the regiment was under fire, in which new laurels were won, but at a most terrible cost. The superior ability of its officers, and the courage and unwavering devotion of its men, placed it at the first among the veteran regiments of the army. With only five months in the field it was virtually wiped out. Eight captains and two acting captains had been killed. Its total loss in officers killed and mortally wounded had reached nineteen; a circumstance unparalled in war. The 61st Pennsylvania lost an equal number, but its battles began in June, 1862, and ended in April, 1865. With such a record of carnage and death, with such devotion to the old flag, with such faithful service for one country and one flag, the regiment could well afford to abandon the field and rest upon its laurels. But such was not its purpose, and such is not its record. About two-hundred fresh men were transferred to its ranks, and it remained in the field until the end of the

war. The grand total of killed and wounded was six hundred and twenty-eight; of killed and mortally wounded, one hundred and eighty-three, and deaths from all causes, three hundred and nine. Among the last in the field, it was in time to do valiant service and win imperishable renown.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

## BUILDING MILLS.

The early settlers were encouraged by the liberal policy of the State, in assisting them to secure homes. Not only were the State lands sold to actual settlers at fifty cents per acre, to be paid in making roads for their own benefit, but grants of land were made to aid in building mills for the manufacture of lumber from which to build them homes. The first grant of land in this township was to Dudley F. Leavitt, and the first mill, aided by the grant, was commenced by Pattee and Frisbee, who had bought out Mr. Leavitt. Mr. Frisbee soon sold out his interest to Albion P. Haywood, and the mill was completed and business carried on for several years by Pattee and Haywood.

This mill, which sawed only long lumber, was soon supplemented with a first-class mill for sawing clapboards, and was located on the present site of Mr. W. A. Haines' mills at the lower village, and on the Fitzherbert brook.

In 1844 another grant of one thousand acres was made to J. Wingate Haines, upon the condition of building a sawmill on the Johnston brook, near the Maple Grove settlement. This mill was erected on the present site of the Bryant mill, east of the Hon. James R. Thurlough's farm. This was soon followed by a mill at the mouth of the Lovely brook, for sawing short lumber, and in which Mr. E. P. Whitney carried on an extensive business, for those times, for several years.

C. H. Ellis built a shingle mill on the Johnston brook, about sixty rods below the Haines sawmill, and about one mile below, the Whidden mill was built, and operated successively by Osco A. Ellis and John F. Ellis.

Mr. William A. Sampson bought out the shingle mill built by C. H. Ellis, and changed it over into a grist mill, and erected another building for a carding machine, and put in steam power.

Deacon Hiram Stevens had sold his Maple Grove farm, and commenced another back from the river and about two miles from the village. Finding a large amount of cedar timber on his and adjoining land, he put in a steam mill and did a good business manufacturing shingles. Deacon Foster and Mr. Randall bought the old Pattee and Hayward mills and proceeded to build a grist mill. Mr. Randall soon died, and his son, John H. Randall, took his interest in the mills. A Mr. Baraes who had

run the carding mill for W. A. Sampson, bought it and removed it to the site of the Whitney mill, on the Lovely brook. Deacon Foster and his son, Lincoln Foster, proceeded to build a mill on the dam which had been put in to hold water for their mills at the village, where the Monson mill now stands. Deacon Stevens sold out his mill property and bought the beautiful Bishop flats, upon the bank of the Aroostook river, and proceeded to build up his present extensive business at Stevensville. The Howe mills, on the north side of the river, were built, a dam was put in on the Johnston brook in the village and a mill erected; and a steam mill at the lower village for sawing staves and heading, by Mr. J. B. Robbins.

On the dam at the Johnston brook there is now a large starch factory, and the Magill carding machine, and doors, stairs, and moulding factory. In addition to a complete supply of lumber for the home market, a large amount of short lumber has been annually shipped to the Boston market. Butter and cheese factories have been established in the town, but the large profits on the potato crops have been too attractive to allow any other farming industry a sure footing.

For many years the manufacturing of split or shaved shingles was an important business, and but for the fortunate introduction of the potato industry, the lumbering business would stand first in our







HON. W. E. PARSONS' RESIDENCE.



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

town. The growing timber on the headwaters of the Fitzherbert brook will supply logs for the Monson mill for a generation, and the Bryant mill will not stand to manufacture the lumber within its reach; the Haines mill obtains its supply mostly from the headwaters of the Fitzherbert brook, while the Stevens manufacturing company and the Howe mill obtain their supply of lumber from the waters of the Aroostook river and its tributaries.

#### STARCH FACTORIES.

The man who first invested his money in a starch factory in Fort Fairfield was indeed a public benefactor. While it may be true that he only looked to his individual interest, and only thought of making money, his act has proved of almost inestimable benefit to the town and county. Without the introduction of this branch of manufacturing, the farmers would not have been warranted in engaging in extensive potato raising, and while the six potato factories in this town depend largely upon small and damaged potatoes, in other sections of the county, and farther from the railroads, the starch factories have to a larger extent entered into the potato raising industry.

The one fact that through the starch factories, potatoes can always be sold above the cost of production, places the farmers where they can safely raise large crops, and by so doing be in a situation

to meet any demand that the market may make upon them. In fact, the starch industry and raising potatoes for the market by the Aroostook farmers, have come to be looked upon as one industry. The mills, whether to manufacture the timber into boards and shingles or the potatoes into starch, are the avenues through which raw material is converted into better condition to be shipped to the markets of the world, and at the same time give additional employment for labor in the home market, and by so much increase the wealth and prosperity of the country.

## CHAPTER XXX.

## SCHOOLS OF FORT FAIRFIELD.

In this far land, beneath the shadow of the north pole, where the soft zephyrs rustled the tiny needles of the stately pines and joined their rhythmic strains with the solemn dirge of the fierce north wind, making weird music to charm the dusky savage stealthily stalking the antlered moose to his ever-green coverts, the voice of Minerva had not penetrated to open the minds of the dwellers to the beauties of their surroundings.

Here, mid the primeval forests whose deep shade afforded shelter to the wiley fox and timid deer; where the beams of the rising sun kissed the fluttering leaves, the first settlers hewed their log cabins and reared their families. No books graced the rough walls, and none they knew, save the great book nature spread out before them, with leaves of variegated hue in summer, and in winter bound with snowy cover and sealed with ribs of ice.

No schools knew they except the schools of



trout and salmon which in abundance swarmed the streams whose sparkling waters were closely studied, as within their limpid depths and rushing cascades lay their choicest food; and thus, for years, these hardy pioneers lived, loved, felled the forest, tilled the soil and educated their children in the traditions of the past as they clustered around the open fire on the long winter evenings.

“For learning and for books,” they said,

“They never had a wish;

No school to them was worth a fig,

Except a school of fish.”

For many years the sparsely settled territory along the banks of the Arcostock river, now the “Garden of Maine,” had neither schools nor school-houses; but as new settlers came to assist in developing the resources of the forest, making homes for themselves, a desire to educate their children became the leading one with many of them; and efforts were made to establish a school where the youths of the settlement could gain a rudimentary education.

Until 1848, desultory attempts were made to teach the children; now a school would be held in some seven by nine shanty, and then in more commodious quarters. The first traditional effort to have a school occurred sometime in the early forties, when Mrs. Lovejoy, who had accompanied her husband to this locality, taught the children of

a few settlers in one of these rude cabins which at the time happened to be unoccupied.

When the posse was quartered in the barracks, one of the numbers opened a school; and, while he practiced the manual of arms, taught the more ennobling arts of peace.

In '48 or '49, a small schoolhouse was erected near the residence of Wingate Haines, being the first in the limits of the present town; and, soon, there followed the red schoolhouse of local fame, the black schoolhouse at the Corner, one in the Bishop neighborhood and one at the village, near the present residence of Mr. Webber, built by a stock company consisting of C. R. Paul, J. Sterling, Gen. Trafton, S. B. Pattee, Elbridge W. Waite, A. S. Richards, Wm. Johnston and J. B. Wing.

Here in this rude structure the children received their instruction in the elementary work of education, under the care of faithful teachers; and from its walls went forth many students whose career ennobled the little, old structure as well as those who gave of their substance that it might be a benefit to the rising generation.

But like many things that have outgrown their usefulness, the room that echoed to the merry voices of the children of long ago, and within which the earnest teacher strove to impress upon the minds of his scholars wise and serious truths,

the duty of obedience and a desire for knowledge, long since became the repository of vulgar handiwork, and now stands across the railroad track converted into a tenement: "Sic transit gloria mundi."

At the organization of the township into the plantation called Letter D, the citizens chose Chas. R. Paul supervisor of schools; and this honorable position he filled well and faithfully for three years, and as money was scarce and the people poor, he took for his valuable services, one of the teachers, Miss Agnes C. Johnston, who was one of the successful teachers in those days when schools were rare and wages low.

About '58 the village was divided into two districts; and the citizens of the upper district, in conjunction with Isaac Hacker, erected a two story building, the upper flat being owned and used by Mr. Hacker as a public hall, while the lower room was fitted up for school purposes.

For several years the village schools were taught in these two buildings, the scholars, meanwhile, becoming more numerous as new additions to the place were made by people from the western part of the state, who became settlers of the town.

Soon after the close of the war, the two districts in the village were united; the upper district conveyed their school property to the town, and the lower district sold the old school house to Mr.

Isaac Hacker, who had it moved to the foot of Fort Hill. While moving the building, the plastering was shaken from the ceiling, and other damage done that demanded speedy repair, and Mr. Hacker engaged the services of C. R. Paul, a *master mason*, to repair the broken ceiling; Mr. Hacker going up through the scuttle hole to arrange some things in the attic.

Charles labored industriously to cover the fracture with laths and mortar: and with weary limbs and perspiring brow, sat down to rest after completing the job. But soon the voice of Mr. Hacker was heard in the attic calling, "Paul, Paul, why persecutest thou me? Let me out, let me down!"

Sure enough, Charles had plastered up the scuttle hole in the ceiling where Mr. Hacker had gone up through; and to his dismay, all the hard work had to be done over again, in order to let the prisoner escape.

Among the early teachers whose names will be remembered by the older residents, are found: Stacy Fowler, Wm. Trafton, Mr. Thompson, Chas. Herrin, Mr. Carr, Miss Lizzie Bean, Miss Haywood, Miss Stackpole, Miss M. L. Libby and Miss A. C. Johnston.

The unity of the districts in one, gave the people ample means to have more commodious quarters than heretofore; and the district purchased a lot near the residence of Wm. Small; and in con-



junction with Eastern Frontier Lodge, No. 112, F. & A. M., erected a large building for that time; the Masons occupying the third floor for lodge purposes, and the other two being used for schools.

Here was held for several years a tuition high school; the people feeling that a higher grade would enable them to achieve far better results than the ordinary common schools, as by the laws of the State, certain studies could not be taught, which were of importance to those who desired to become teachers. The tuition high schools were taught by F. W. Smith, Miss F. E. Hinckly, Miss E. F. Hinckly, Miss A. E. Small, Miss M. C. Call and Miss H. C. Ring.

While the village and two or three outlying districts were fairly well supplied with school houses, a large number of the districts had none at all, or if any, so poor an apology for a house that schools could be kept in them only in the summer. In 1870, even, although the town contained eight hundred and eight scholars, and numbered twenty districts, it is not surprising, under the old district system, to read the following in the school report:

"In the matter of school houses, it seems to us that the time has come for the town to take action according to the law passed by the legislature of 1867, to raise money and assess taxes on several of the districts in town, for the purpose of building schoolhouses. There are now twenty districts







GEO. L. FOSS AND FEARLESS.



C. C. ROGERS' BUILDING.

in town, and only seven houses in which a winter school can be held; and some of these are mere shells, and very uncomfortable."

The report of 1872 reads: "Some districts are unable to build schoolhouses; and the town, knowing their inability, will not compel them to do so, while others, more able, are doubly unwilling, and voters shrink from any compulsory act which seems like partial suffrage. How can we remedy the evil? Some are confident that good schoolhouses would be secured by abolishing the 'district system,' but who will abolish it? The voters in each town have the power, but in our rural towns have not the inclination. I do not think that five intelligent men, after a careful examination, could be found who would abolish the district system."

Shade of departed greatness,  
Now hath the mighty fallen!

During the several previous years, the schools of the town were under the instruction of Misses S. J. Waite, Mary Cummings, M. A. Ketchum, L. E. Sterling, A. S. Small, O. A. Currier, M. E. Hyde, L. A. Putnam, I. D. Haines and several others of whom the supervisors were pleased to say that they labored earnestly and well for the pupils under their care, handicapped as they were by a lack of proper apparatus.

The several terms of tuition high school had

given the people a chance to learn of their value; and the State having passed a law, appropriating funds to towns that would raise money for the support of free high schools, this town was not far behind in availing itself of the advantage which this fund afforded, and in the school report of 1873, the supervisor appeals to the voters of the town to avail themselves of this beneficent boon in the following:

"For several years our high school has been dependent on tuition for support; but, through the liberality of the legislature, we may now make its blessings free to all our youth. By raising this fund we receive as much from the State to defray the expense of instruction, and make it a *free* as well as a *high* school. Let us by our votes open the avenues to science so that our youth may come without money and without price to share its blessings."

At the annual town meeting of 1873, the town voted to raise \$250 for the support of a free high school. The tuition school became a thing of the past, yet its good work lived and shone forth in the energy of those teachers who had there received their instruction; and the memory of those faithful instructors who labored for their pupils will remain a golden halo in the breasts of their scholars till time draws their mantle about them and they lie down to pleasant dreams.

The first term of free high school was under the instruction of Miss Hattie C. Ring of Lubec, with Nicholas Fessenden, now secretary of State, as assistant, who was also supervisor, and in his report says of the school: "The principal was earnest in her efforts, and sustained her high reputation as an efficient and thorough instructor."

The fall term was under the management of Nicholas Fessenden, principal, and Miss Mary E. Hyde assistant, and Mr. Fessenden modestly adds, "Very much of the success and merit of the school, if it had any, was due to the faithful and competent labors of Miss Hyde, who brought to her work accurate and advanced knowledge, combined with ready tact to teach and love for the labor."

Miss Hyde was also principal of a branch of the high school, taught at Maple Grove, which fully sustained the reputation of the teacher for skill and accuracy.

A new corps of teachers now wielded the "gad," among which were,—Misses Lizzie E. Trafton, M. E. Knight, Carrie Richards, Mary Haley, L. J. Currier, Alice J. Small, Mr. V. B. Wilson and H. C. Townsend.

The nightmare of educational progress hung heavily upon the minds of the people, and yet valiant efforts were made by the faithful friends to dispel the dark cloud that for years had hung black



and lowering above the educational horizon in the hateful guise of the "district system." As late as 1875, the baleful effects of this octopus is portrayed in the report of the supervisor: and all the friends of the old district system should read the same.

"Fourteen hundred dollars due from the town to schools unexpended: and only *six* decent school-houses in town.

"No maps, no globes, dictionaries, charts or blackboards of any importance in any district in the town."

And in the matter of teachers and agents the report reads: "It seems to me the supervisor should have the whole control of hiring teachers, instead of dividing that responsibility with twenty-two agents who stand upon middle ground between the supervisor and the teachers. In many cases the actions of the agent say to the supervisor, "You would not certificate the teacher I hired and I will not hire the teacher you certificate."

In the matter of schoolhouses the report truthfully says: "The other sixteen buildings are cold, cheerless *pens*, unfit for a human being to tenant. Poor seats, and often none, unless a plank, poor floors, in fact, poor in every respect, and the only cause of wonderment is, that teachers can teach, and scholars can study as well as they do, in them. Where does the responsibility lie? Let the town

abolish the district system, take possession of the school property, have at its disposal, in addition to the sum now raised, precisely the amount the districts expend for new schoolhouses and repairs, and in a comparatively short time all the schoolhouses can be made good, or new ones built wherever needed; and, gradually, maps, globes, blackboards, dictionaries and such necessary appliances will make their appearance."

After reading the above it is refreshing to the faithful, earnest friends of education to look over the town in this year, 1894, and behold what havoc the hand of time has made with the district system and what beautiful results have followed its abolition.

The schools of the village are really examples of the progress made throughout the town; and hence these schools will form the nucleus of the present history.

The fall term of free high school was under the management of Charles F. Hawes, a graduate of Bowdoin, assisted by Frank P. Orcutt; the spring term by E. J. Pratt with R. B. Burns as assistant. Among the teachers of the town may be found Misses Carrie Richards, Nellie E. Thurlough, Emma Slocomb, Mattie J. Findlen, Lillie Hopkins, Rose Thurlough, Sadie T. Hoyt, Rose Haley, Kate Haley, Tressa Findlen, Frankie Farrel and Florence E. Rollins.

The report of 1877 shows that the earnest work of the educators had produced good results, and an entering wedge had been placed, which, if properly propelled, would be of lasting benefit to the schools. The report states: "By vote of the town the hiring of teachers was transferred to the supervisor." And in regard to schoolhouses,—“We have only five schoolhouses suitable for winter schools. In eight there have been no winter schools on account of their unfitness; this state of things ought not to be, but who is able to point out a remedy?”

The above statement sounds strange to the student of to-day when he recalls that, in 1875, the valuation of the town was one half a million dollars, a population of about two thousand five hundred, some one thousand scholars, and a school fund of \$4,125, and as late as the annual meeting in March, 1877, \$1,458 of the school fund remained unexpended, for lack of proper school facilities.

In 1876, the free high school was taught by E. J. Pratt, Miss L. A. Putnam assisting; and in the spring by Miss M. C. Hunter, assisted by F. P. Orcutt. These schools were well attended, and good results followed. The teachers were competent, experienced and ambitious.

In 1877, one new schoolhouse was built in the Powers district, and the supervisor hails with joy this awakening of the people to their wants in his report.

“With one laudable exception, the schoolhouses are in the same condition as at the close of last year. District No. 6, has within the year, completed an elegant schoolhouse, which stands as a monument to the liberality and educational standing of the district, which has so heavily taxed itself for this much needed institution, and as a reproach to other districts, equally able to do in proportion to their valuation, what this district has so nobly done. It may well be hoped that the erection of this new schoolhouse, now the best in town, may excite an honorable spirit of emulation in other districts, for without comfortable houses, good and profitable schools are an impossibility.”

The citizens of this district were, indeed, proud of their efforts; and when the building was completed, arranged to have it appropriately dedicated to the cause of education; and the committee of arrangements invited N. H. Martin, principal of the high school, to deliver the dedication speech, which he did from the text, “And it was in the heart of David to build an house to the Most High God.”

## CHAPTER XXXI.

## SCHOOLS OF FORT FAIRFIELD—CONTINUED.

The Free High School in the fall of 1877 was under the instruction of N. H. Martin, B. S., as principal, assisted by R. B. Burns, B. C. L., both graduates of the Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

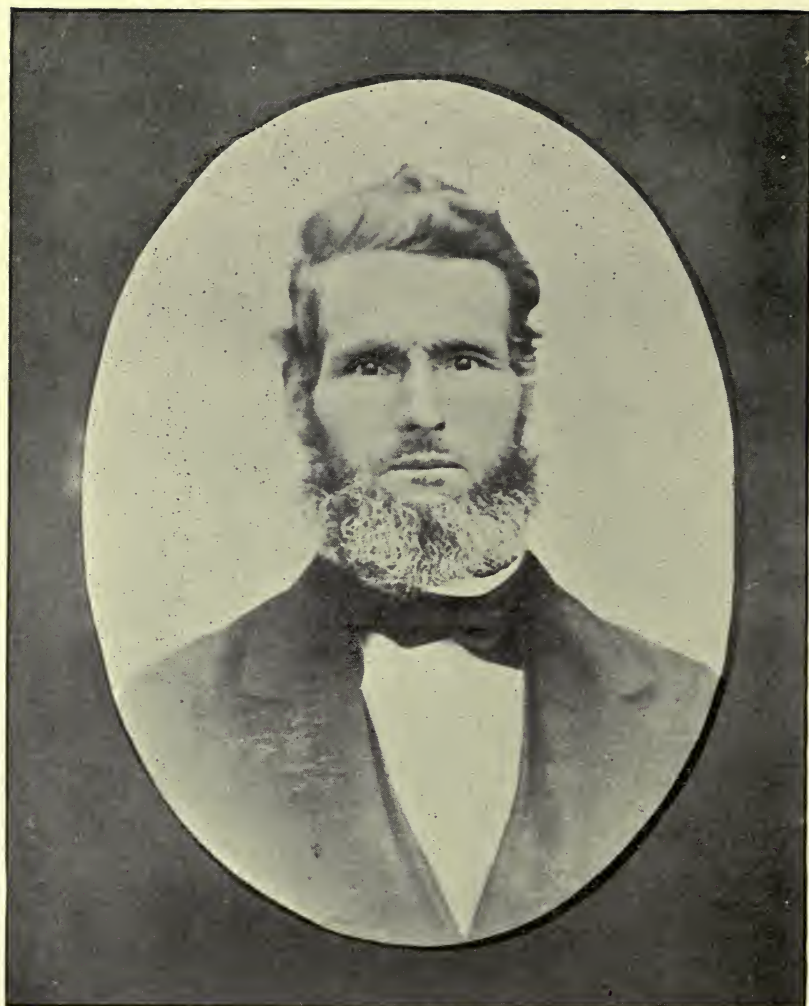
Of this school the supervisor, N. Fessenden, says in his report: "One of the best, if not the best, free high school which we have ever had, in all respects justifying the reputation of the teachers and the wisdom of the expenditure of the town money for free high schools."

The legislature of 1880, ostensibly to curtail State expenses, suspended the act donating funds for the free high schools; and the supervisor, Mr. Martin, has this to say of the action:

"In suspending the act relating to free high schools, the legislature has done a gross injustice to our country teachers, whose limited means will not enable them to go away from home to prepare themselves to teach."







ALMON S. RICHARDS.

This year the supervisor adopted the system of public examination of teachers; an innovation in the time honored custom of teachers engaging schools and then getting private examinations; and one of the teachers who failed to pass satisfactorily, expressed the sentiment of the teachers as well as of the friends of the district system. "Why," said she, "we never have thought about getting a certificate; all we cared was to get hired for a school and the supervisor did not dare refuse us a certificate." Real nice idea, was it not? and one tending to increase the interest and intelligence of the teaching force.

This system of public examinations had come to stay, however; and, although the supervisor who inaugurated the same was condemned on all sides, by friends as well as enemies, yet the good results that followed its adoption is ample satisfaction to him, as it has been the means of having better teachers, and consequently, better schools.

The teaching force of these years was Misses Estelle G. Ketchum, Eva Johnston, Frankie Farrell, Sadie T. Hoyt, Lillie Hopkins, Emma Slocomb, Rose Haley, Kate Haley, Mary Belyea, etc.

At the annual meeting of 1881, Rev. Hudson Sawyer, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, was elected supervisor: and being in accord with the principal of the high school, Mr. Martin, various

methods were adopted to aid the teachers in their work. Among the different things inaugurated were the teachers' meetings, to which all the teachers in town were invited, and given an opportunity to state their plans and methods, as well as to listen to the experience of others.

These meetings were a veritable normal school department, and nearly every one entered into the work with zeal, realizing that lasting benefit would result from a continuance of the communication of ideas.

The following year, Rev. Mr. Sawyer recommended in his annual report: "First, every district should be supplied with wall maps. Second, dissolve the system and adopt the town plan. Third, vote money for your free high school."

The legislature of 1881 had renewed the act relating to the maintainance of free high schools, and the town willingly and eagerly voted a sum of money for its support. The darkness that had hung over the educational work of the zealous teachers and parents for many years had become unbearable; and by the united efforts of these workers, a ray of light shone across the horizon, which, at the annual meeting in 1882, burst forth in an effulgent flame whose glare almost dazzled the eyes of those honored and devoted seekers for better school accommodations, as the town voted to abolish that relic of by-gone days, the "district

system," and to adopt the "town plan," which every true friend of education felt and knew would carry blessings untold to the rising generation; and the results predicted have been more than verified during the few years that have passed since the change.

Too much praise cannot be given Rev. Hudson Sawyer for his untiring efforts for the abolition of the district system, and his business-like methods in conducting the schools of the town. To his sagacity and zeal are due, in a great measure, the rapid development of school property; and the pupils of to-day have them to thank that they are housed in comfortable rooms with apparatus worthy of the name; and when after three years of patient toil, Rev. Mr. Sawyer severed his connection with the schools, the town lost a warm advocate of progressive education, as well as a worthy citizen.

During the management of affairs under the supervision of Rev. Mr. Sawyer and the following school officials,—F. P. Grant, H. O. Perry, H. C. Townsend and A. D. Sawyer,—the school property had assumed such gigantic proportions that the report of 1889 reads like a chapter from Arabian Nights, and truly the wand of the magician had waved over the town.

"We have now twenty-six schoolhouses, six more than Presque Isle and five more than Cari-



bou." Nearly every one is supplied with wall maps, charts, blackboards, dictionaries, books of reference, improved seats and desks and commodious out-buildings. The value of school property is estimated to be \$1,200, number of scholars one thousand one hundred and seventy, and a school fund of \$5,229,—a showing in which any town may well feel just pride, and which places this town among the foremost in the State.

From 1877 to 1887, the free high school was under the instruction of N. H. Martin, B. S., with R. B. Burns, B. C. E., Miss E. G. Ketchum, Miss Alice Knowland, Miss Isa E. Harvey and Miss Myrtle L. Ketchum as assistants.

These schools were well attended, and many teachers here received their education; and the high standing of the school and quality of instruction is too well known to make but a passing comment from the report of 1887. "Of the quality of instruction, it is needless to speak. Mr. Martin's superior ability in classification, enables him to accomplish commendable results." And the assistants were no less worthy of praise, not only for their untiring efforts for the welfare of the school, but also for their erudition and methods of imparting the principles of knowledge to those under their care.

In February, 1885, the schoolhouse was burned, and by the courtsey of Mr. Hacker, the school was held in Memorial Hall.

Later in the season the town hall was fitted up, and in conjunction with the hall above, was used for school purposes, where the scholars alternately froze and thawed during the long weary winters.

At the annual meeting in 1887, the town voted to establish a high school with a course of study, and also voted to build a new house to accommodate the needs of the increasing number of scholars.

The schoolhouse was completed in season to have the fall term taught therein, and the same was conducted by Chas. A. Washburn, with Miss Myrtle L. Ketchum assistant.

The school building, both in design of architecture and workmanship, reflect very little credit to either the town or parties interested in its erection, and shows plainly that it is the duty of the town, when large sums of money are to be expended, to see that men are chosen to superintend the expenditures that have some knowledge of the business.

The teachers at this period comprised Misses Alice Whitney, Isa E. Harvey, Myrtle L. Ketchum, Alice Haley, Jane Haley, Annie J. Bishop, Flora Rackliff, Mr. H. W. Trafton, C. C. Harvey, M. N. Drew, etc.

After the expiration of the spring term of 1888, Mr. Wm. L. Powers was engaged as principal of the high school, with Miss Kate Winslow as assist-

ant; and in 1891 the first class graduated, consisting of the following: Misses Lulu M. Condon, Mattie E. Hopkins, Cordie M. King, Mr. D. McPherson Harvey, Jerre H. Libby and Sterling Fessenden. Of the undergraduates there were eighty-nine in attendance, with ten pupils in the first class.

Dr. A. D. Sawyer had charge of the schools of the town as supervisor, and marked progress was made in all departments of school work throughout the town. The high school, under the management of Mr. Powers, a teacher of exceptional qualification, with a corps of able assistants, made even better progress than the most sanguine had expected, and placed the school among the foremost of its kind in the State.

The town voted in 1891 to purchase text books for the use of scholars, which added largely to the grand results achieved by the teachers and supervisors.

At the present writing, H. F. Kallock has charge of the high school, with Misses M. E. Merrill and Flora Rackliff as assistants; and under his able management the school is still held up to the standard of excellence that it has maintained for the past years, and the teachers fully sustain the enviable record of their predecessors, under the care of H. W. Trafton, the present supervisor.

To sum up: from a feeble beginning, with few scholars, scant means and more ignorance, the

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schools of the town have risen from the log cabin to the pretentious edifice which adorns the page of this book.

All praise to those who were zealous in the work and instrumental in bringing about the grand and lasting results recorded in this history of the schools of Fort Fairfield.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

## CHURCHES.

## FORT FAIRFIELD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Owing to the paucity of the records, it is not possible to give a full and connected history of this church.

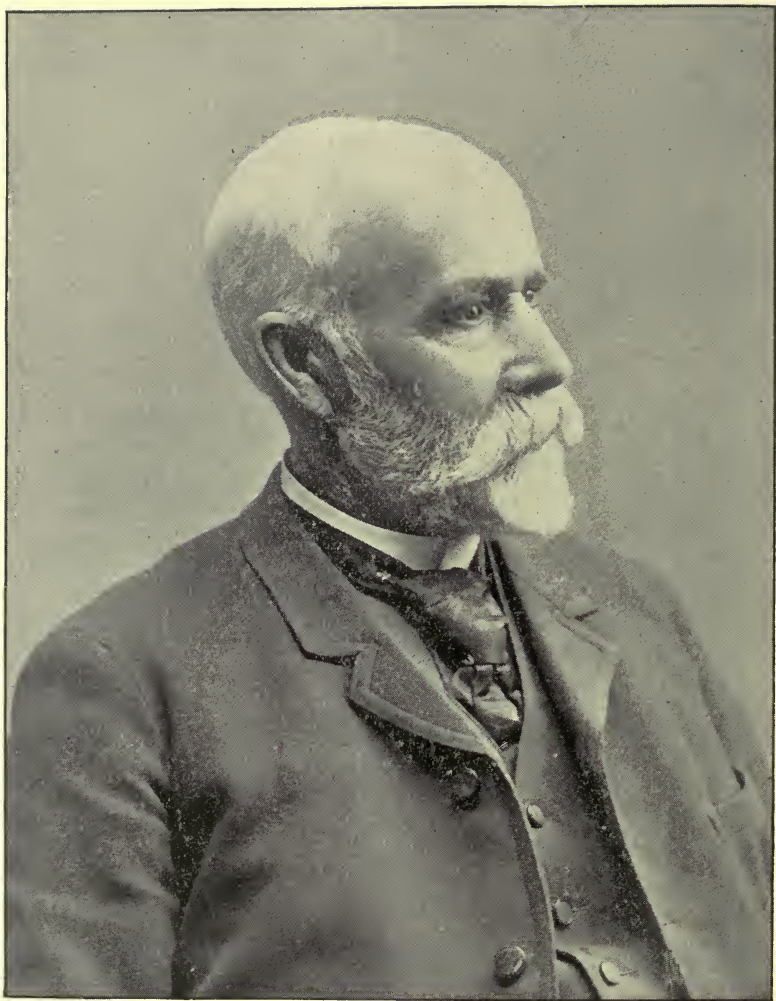
Covering as it does a period of half a century, and thus reaching far back to the very beginnings of organized Christian work in Northern Aroostook, its founders and promoters struggling amidst the adverse circumstances which are the certain concomitants of pioneer life, did not fully estimate the value to succeeding generations of a full and connected record. The following, while by no means a full, is believed to be a correct history, though certain dates are rather indefinite.

This church was organized in what was then Letter D, now Fort Fairfield, in the log house of Edward S. Fowler, on the 8th day of October, 1844.

The original members were five, viz: Edward S. Fowler, Mary Fowler, Hiram Stevens, Caleb H. Ellis and Susan Ellis.







DEA. HIRAM STEVENS.

It is somewhat remarkable that after the lapse of half a century, two of these five original members,—Deacon Hiram Stevens of this town and Caleb H. Ellis, the author of this book,—are still living, although the latter, many years ago, severed his connection with this church, and united with the Methodists.

The organizing council was composed of Rev. Wm. T. Savage and Mr. Nathanael G. Treat of Houlton, Rev. Francis P. Smith of Monticello and Rev. Josiah G. Merrill, missionary on the field, also Rev. John Eaton, agent of the American Tract Society. Rev. J. G. Merrill was chosen moderator, and Rev. Wm. T. Savage scribe of the council. The following is the order of services as transcribed from the records:

“Reading of hymn, prayer and reading of Scriptures by Rev. F. P. Smith; calling the names, and baptism of Susan Ellis, reading of the Articles of Faith and Covenant, and receiving the assent of the proposed members, by Rev. Wm. T. Savage; prayer consecrating the church and setting apart Edward S. Fowler to the office of deacon, according to previous election, by Rev. J. G. Merrill; fellowship of the church by Rev. John Eaton; communion service by Rev. Messrs. Savage and Merrill; benediction by Rev. J. G. Merrill.”

It is exceedingly interesting to read the doings of that little company of disciples, as there, in the

kitchen of that rude domicile, in the midst of the "forest primeval," they reverently and solemnly laid the foundation of this church and consecrated it to Almighty God. I cannot forbear inserting here the following extract from the sermon of Rev. Stacy Fowler, preached at the dedication of the first house of worship at Fort Fairfield village in 1874. Rev. Stacy Fowler was the son of Deacon Edward S. Fowler, in whose house thirty years before the church had been organized, and was at the time a young lad.

After referring to the "change and progress of thirty years," as also to the fact that "other hands hold the plough and other brains throb with the living issues of the times,"—the preacher said:

"But there are other and more cherished memories. The organization of this church in the cabin of my early home at Maple Grove, thirty years ago the 8th of next October, is one of the sweetest and most inspiring memories of my life.

"As if in benediction, the magnificent birches and maples of that primitive forest stretched their autumn crowned arms over the cabin and over the council. As if acting the part of a church spire, an evergreen spruce lifted its emerald tip a hundred and twenty feet into the sky.

"In the night the council beheld the stars shining through the roof of the rude domicile. May we not believe that those stars symbolized the eyes

of God who looked down approvingly upon their doings? Ay, were they not prophetic, too, of that benign Providence who has been the guiding star—the pillar of cloud and of fire—to this handful of disciples in all their years of feebleness and toil? Only five believers gathered through the assiduity of Father Merrill, whom Dr. Gillett, then secretary of the Maine Missionary Society, sent hither to find any scattered sheep of our Israel in this wilderness—only five, three males and two females, then were the germinated life of this church. Father Merrill has just gone in a ripe old age to his reward. But the church which he was instrumental in planting still lives, and will continue to live to bless the community.

“Verily God has blessed you. His banner over you has been, and is, *love*. He who began to plant you has made you full of growing.”

It is impossible for us to realize the difficulties and hardships which those early missionaries had to encounter, as following the courses of the streams or the “spotted lines” through the unbroken forests, they went from place to place in their eagerness to break the “bread of life” to the famishing people. Truly they “rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.”

Founded in weakness, holding their meetings from house to house, without regular or stated preaching, depending upon an occasional visit from



Father Merrill or some other missionary laboring in this wild, uncultivated field,—it is little wonder that their growth should have been slow, and that at the close of the first quarter of a century of its existence the little church numbered scarcely a score of members.

But brighter days and better things were in store for them. With the clearing away of the forest and the settlement of the neighborhood, came other Christians, both of their own and other denominations, among whom there seems to have been the most friendly spirit.

After worshipping in schoolhouses for some years, feeling that other and better accommodations were needed, and that the time had come for building a “meeting house,” in about 1856, in connection with the Methodists, the Free Baptists and the Baptists, the first house of worship, known as the “Union House,” was built.

Here they continued to worship, occupying the house their proportional part of the time, for a period of ten or twelve years, at the end of which time the place of worship was transferred to the village.

In the year 1852, the Maine Missionary Society sent Rev. E. Knight, who continued to be their “acting pastor” for about fifteen years, after which the church was supplied with preaching by Rev. Mr. Austin, acting pastor of the church at Presque

Isle, and others, until the coming of Rev. W. T. Sleeper, in 1872, who remained about three years.

It was during his pastorate that the first house of worship at the village was built, having been dedicated on the 24th day of May, 1874.

This building was erected at the cost of about \$3000, including the lot and furniture. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Stacy Fowler, (reference to which has already been made) and the dedicatory prayer was made by the pastor, Rev. W. T. Sleeper. At this time the number of communicants had increased to about forty.

The next acting pastor was Rev. Mr. Wheelwright, who remained about two years, and was succeeded by Rev. Ebenezer Bean, who was acting pastor from January, 1876 to January, 1877. He was followed by Rev. Charles Sinnett, who remained for about three years, and in turn was succeeded by Rev. E. P. Eastman in 1882. In 1886, Rev. D. Osgood became acting pastor, remaining until September, 1888. In November, 1888, the church engaged Mr. G. B. Hescock of Monson, Maine, to supply their pulpit for an indefinite time, with the view of his becoming their pastor, should the relations thus formed prove to be mutually satisfactory. Such being the case, he was ordained to the gospel ministry, and installed pastor of the church on the 28th day of March, 1889, and is the present pastor.

The membership had then increased to a little more than fifty. The whole number of names enrolled since the organization of the church is one hundred and sixty-eight, and the present membership is one hundred and twelve.

In 1891, the church becoming aware that they must either enlarge their house of worship or build a new one, for many good reasons decided to do the latter. Accordingly, the old building and lot was sold, a new site chosen, and the present house of worship erected and dedicated on the 6th day of October, 1892.

The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. C. G. McCully of Calais, Maine, and the dedicatory prayer was made by the pastor.

The building was erected at a cost of about \$7,000.

The lot, furnaces, electric lighting, organ, pulpit suite, carpets, pew cushions, vestry settees, etc., cost about \$2,000 making the entire cost not far from \$9,000. The building is modern in its appointments, very convenient in use, and is regarded by all as among the neatest and tastiest of country churches.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

## CHURCHES.

## THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The soldiers had barely taken possession of the disputed territory, before the itinerant minister was upon the ground. The Rev. John G. Pingree of the Methodist Episcopal Church, came by the way of the upper Aroostook road, in the summer of 1839, and his mission or circuit, extended from Misardis to the boundary line. Upon his arrival at the Fort he was kindly received by the officers, and liberally paid. A home was provided for him at Mr. Nathan Johnston's. Mrs. Johnston was a devout Methodist, holding her membership in Frederickton, N. B. He continued to visit the Fort and preach to the people through the year.

The following letter received by Dr. Barker, the present pastor of the church, will give an idea of the lifelong interest of a faithful "circuit preacher" in the field he has occupied; containing as it does, incidents of interest from life in those early days:



"DUNDEE, ILL, July 24, 1893.

"*Dear Brother:*—

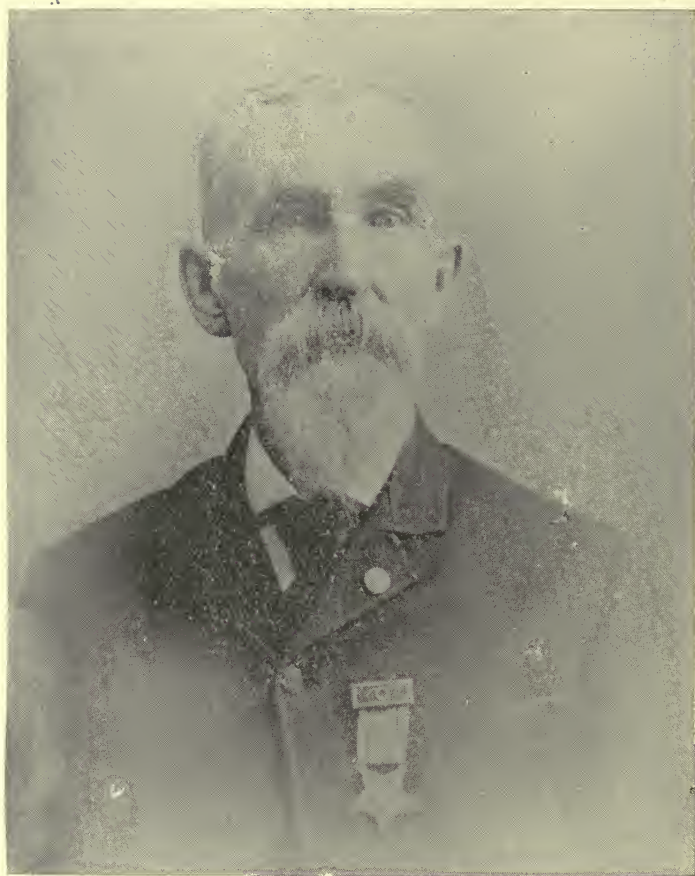
It is true that I am not acquainted with you personally, but I almost claim acquaintance from the fact that I am a Methodist preacher, though a superannuate of the Wisconsin conference, and that you now occupy the same field that I broke up in 1839-40. For some incidents and illustrations of my work see "Maine Methodism," (East Maine) pp. 68-99. I will say some things additional, and hope to receive a letter from you giving a description of how things are now. I suppose that I am the only living minister that occupied that mission ground in those early times.

"I presume that few are now living at the Fort who knew me over ~~five~~ fifty years ago. Should there be any, I would be glad to have a letter from them.

"In August, 1839, I made my way by water from No. 10 (Masardis) to the Fort, called on the captain, introduced myself as a Methodist missionary, and was kindly received and invited to preach in the Fort the following Sabbath; and knowing the condition of the settlement, he wisely selected me a boarding place during my short stay in the place. I preached to the soldiers, and at the close of the meeting, the captain invited me to stop and preach another Sabbath, which I did, and early Monday morning the quartermaster came to my







HON. HENRY O. PERRY.

lodgings and presented me with \$10 as a present from the officers and soldiers.

I was very glad of this board arrangement, as there were few families where it would be convenient for me to lodge, and then it gave me a good opportunity to visit all the families in the place, and to ascertain the true condition of the people. I stayed at Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Johnston's, residing about half a mile down the river from the Fort. My hostess was a highly cultured lady of Scotch descent, a good Methodist, holding her membership in Frederickton, N. B. I think they had no children, if so the family has probably become extinct, but if any of the family are living and remember me, hope they will write me.

"I felt that under the circumstances I could not do much for the place, though I preached there occasionally and did what I could. Aside from the soldiers there were no Americans in the place, but all from the Province, the most of whom I could not reach.

"Now I would like to know what became of these old settlers? Did they become Americanized, or did they move away? Is the chief settlement around the old fort? Where is our church and parsonage located? I can hardly think of the place only as I saw it more than fifty years ago. O, how glad I would be to visit the old Aroostook mission ground before I die, and see with my own

eyes what God has wrought! But this can never be, for I am more than eighty years old, partially blind, very feeble, and patiently waiting for the Master, but all is well.

"May I not expect a letter from you in answer to this? Sometimes I almost fancy myself working with might and main laying the foundation of Methodism in that interesting field. Good bye.

Yours truly,

J. G. PINGREE."

We are dependent upon such information as Dr. Barker has been able to obtain from the oldest members of the church, as the church records are very meagre, and of little use in making up history.

The Rev. Mr. Hatch put in an appearance, possibly on horseback, probably on foot. It was the custom in those days for ministers to make long journeys, visiting from house to house. The hospitality was open handed; in many a log house there was a prophet's chamber—possibly up under the roof a little nearer the star world than down below.

Like Lorenzo Dow, they came from nowhere, left word around that there would be preaching,—at Mr. Nathan Johnston's that evening; it was noise! about, and a houseful of earnest listeners greeted the preacher. Rev. Mr. Hatch's circuit extended as far as Ashland, with appointments at Caribou and Salmon Brook, and we think at other places.

In 1842 and 43, Ephraim H. Whitney, whose father had located in this township, made his home at his father's, but labored principally in Presque Isle. Rev. Alphonso Rogers was that year appointed to the Aroostook mission, and the following year moved his family to Letter D, and he became the first settled minister, and received a grant of a lot of land from the State, by reason of that fact. Brother Rogers remained upon his farm for several years, and though appointments were made to the mission, he always found work, and was in demand for weddings, funerals, and to supply when the appointed minister failed to put in an appearance.

In 1845, Rev. True Page Adams was appointed to the circuit. He was a devoted, faithful minister, and being a young man was able to exert a strong influence, always for good, over the young people, while he was greatly beloved by the older members of the church. He did a good work for the church and society, and his name was long held in remembrance.

Brother Adams was followed by Rev. Benjamin Lufkin, who was noted for his devout piety, devotion to itinerant work, and for his oddities and extreme awkwardness. Stopping over night with an influential Methodist family, in the morning the good man of the house showed Bro. Lufkin his stock, and then made his way to the log house



where he had some very fine porkers. After taking a look at them, he turned to his host and said: "Bro. L—, do you think you are growing in grace as fast as that hog is in size?" With a long drawn sigh, Bro. L— replied, "I fear I am not," to which Bro. Lufkin replied, "Bro. L—. I should be ashamed to be outdone by a hog!"

It was with such home thrusts that the good man moved among the people, with words of truth arousing the indifferent, stirring up the lukewarm, and bringing joy and gladness to the believing heart.

His personal appearance was decidedly against him. He was six feet four inches in his stockings; his speech was very abrupt, and first impressions were always against him, but he made earnest and devoted friends of old and young. He was the greatest revivalist that visited the Aroostook in those days. He spent two useful years upon the Aroostook mission.

After leaving the Aroostook, he went to the western part of the State, where he married a wife, much like himself in personal appearance and devotion to the Master's work. He was a faithful and respected member of the Maine conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He finished his work, and was called up higher several years ago.

Kendrick A. Meservy spent one or two years upon the circuit. He came in the first years of his

ministry, and had but little experience, but he proved a faithful, devoted pastor, and did good work for the Master.

At the breaking out of the war, he offered his services as chaplain of the 10th Maine Regiment, and was elected. He proved a faithful, devoted chaplain, and by precept and example did all he could to lead the soldiers to prepare for their duty to their country and their God. When death came it found him with his comrades at the Soldiers' Home, near Augusta, Maine.

Rev. Bro. Stanchfield and Rev. Bro. Hartford faithfully served the charge. Of those times the present pastor, Rev. Dr. Barker, says: "When the presiding elder, who lived at Bangor, wished for plenty of air and hilarious exercise, he started for Aroostook. He came up in good style, and for three days and nights he poured forth red hot sermons, the people coming from all parts of the circuit, and in all sorts of conveyances, and made a big time among the Methodists upon these quarterly meeting occasions. We dare to ask, why, O why, do they not do so now?"

"Now, he comes when the steeple bell rings out its last chime, occupies the pastor's spare bed one night, drinks up his breakfast coffee the next morning, and is gone,—alas, alas!"

In 1853 and '54, the Rev. Thomas Cookson was appointed to the charge, and did faithful and suc-

cessful work. He was an earnest and successful minister, and was the first minister to occupy the new parsonage, which was built largely through the Hoyt influence, which was very strong in the church at that day. It was built on what was then known as the Whitney farm, now owned by Mr. Stephen Averill, near the home of Mr. Levi Hoyt.

The mission was successfully and faithfully served by Bros. Soule, Hartford, Huckins, and in the absence of a regular Methodist supply, Rev. Bro. Pitcher, a Christian minister, preached to them with great acceptability. Bros. Wm. P. Ray, Tree-win and Whitney were appointed to the charge.

In 1880, the presiding elder in his report to conference, said, "at Fort Fairfield a church enterprise has been inaugurated. The building is begun, but not far advanced. It is a promising field and at an important point, and we earnestly hope the church will be built." The next year in his report he said, "the church at Fort Fairfield is being pushed toward completion. It will be an attractive church when done; it is wisely located and will be a strong point for Methodism in the Aroostook valley."

In conclusion we give the following historical reflections from the present pastor.

"Well! it was completed, and its white tower and its spire is a landmark, as the weary traveler crowns the side hills and descends into the valley, or glancing from the car window, taking advantage

of a curve, as one approaches by train. Its bell rings out good cheer for all who come to its services; like every church, deaths and removals have done their work of decimation. But we are satisfied that if she is true to her past antecedents, she will not in any wise compromise with sin. If upon the bells of the average Aroostook farmer's horses, you can in future days spell out the old prophetic utterance—'Holiness to the Lord,' we are sure that the Methodist Episcopal Church will stand firm—frowning upon all shams, and making herself felt as a power against rum and narcotics; true to God, and opposing all time serving policy. She will be an opening gateway for the future generations into God's beautiful Heavenly home."

Following Bro. Anderson came Bro. Skinner, who remained on the charge three years. Brother Price followed. He it was that conceived the idea of having the present parsonage rooms finished beneath the audience room of the church, so that, as our present genial presiding elder says,—“The pastor and family literally ‘dwell in the house of the Lord forever.’”

Honorable mention must be made of the late pastors who labored faithfully in this field,—Bros. Withee, Luce and Bass, and in closing this chapter of our history, we hail with kindly greetings all who are laboring to establish truth and righteousness in our midst, and with the old apostle at Apii Forum, “thank God and take courage.”



## CHAPTER XXXIV.

## CHURCHES—CONTINUED.

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

In the year 1867 the Reverend Dr. Henry A. Neely, of New York city, was consecrated bishop of Maine to succeed the Right Reverend George Burgess, who had died during the year previous. The new bishop established his residence at Portland, and entered at once zealously upon his work. Upon a hasty survey of his diocese, he was struck with the evidences of rapid growth and future prosperity of Aroostook county, and he determined to make an effort to plant the church there when opportunity should present itself. Mr. Wm. H. Washburn, a retired sea captain,—having been attached to the church, first by her beautiful liturgy—at this juncture, applied to Bishop Neely, and announced his desire to enter the ministry of the Episcopal Church. As soon as Mr. Washburn had complied with the canons governing such cases, he was admitted a candidate for holy orders, and sent to Aroostook.







HON. W E. PARSONS.

Leaving Bangor he drove north, and visited several Aroostook towns, and returned, reporting the result of his trip to his diocesan. A second trip was made, the bishop accompanying him, and services were held at Ashland and some other points. At one of these services the bishop made the acquaintance of Mr. Isaac Hacker, by whom he was urged to visit Fort Fairfield, and hold service. It was agreed that on his way back he would stop at the Fort as desired. In the meantime Mr. Hacker returned, and made all necessary arrangements for the service, and the bishop upon his arrival paid a visit to the singing school, which was taught by Deacon Small, and there enlisted a choir for the occasion. There was some hesitation in "finding places," but all considered, that was a very hearty service. Requests were made at all points for regular ministrations, but the resources of the bishop were so limited that he was unable to maintain more than one missionary in the region. Mr. Washburn was therefore stationed here, and churches at Presque Isle, Ashland and Fort Fairfield, and the commodious rectory at the last named place, are the material evidence of his zeal.

Mr. Washburn entered upon his labors at once, and missions were organized at Ashland first, then at Fort Fairfield. The date of the latter was April 21st, and the officers first appointed were J. B. Trafton, warden; J. F. Hacker, treasurer; C.

C. Pattee, parish clerk. Mr. Washburn labored assiduously, ministering to the needs of his scattered people, maintaining services at remote stations, travelling hundreds of miles in search of funds to press forward the church property, and at the same time pursuing his theological studies. Mr. Washburn labored here until the spring of 1877; during which time he records three hundred and twenty-four baptisms, one hundred and twenty-two confirmations, twenty-four marriages and sixty-five burials. The aggregate value of the church property which he left behind him was \$15,000. Such a record speaks volumes for his zeal and faithfulness. Mr. Washburn left scores of friends, but no enemies. Of course there were those who disagreed with him in belief and methods, and they sometimes took pains to have it known. Many of our readers will remember the cognomen applied to St. Paul's Church during its process of erection. Its variation from the style of architecture usual for schoolhouse and meeting houses, earned for it the title of "Washburn's smokehouse." But these things were not serious, and as before remarked, the Rev. Mr. Washburn is remembered with respect and affection by his friends.

The years of his ministry were the sunniest in the history of St. Paul's mission. Members of various religious bodies who had heartily co-operated with the people of St. Paul's, which maintained the only

regular services in the village, had of course withdrawn when movements to establish their own communions were made. The members thus reduced became disheartened by frequent changes in their pastoral oversight, with often long intervals during which the church was closed, and no services held.

The successors of Mr. Washburn have been as follows:

Rev. R. M. Edwards, who came to Fort Fairfield in March, 1877; Rev. Hudson Sawyer came in 1879; Rev. F. H. Rowse came in the summer of 1885; Rev. W. A. Swan in the autumn of 1889; Rev. L. M. Wilkins in 1890, and Rev. Geo. Bruce Nicholson, 1892.

Occasional services have been held during intervals of vacancy by other clergymen and lay readers, but those named above are the only ones whose ministrations are recorded on the parish register. One after another they have succeeded to the office left vacant by Mr. Washburn's removal, but none have ever yet filled his place. Next to him, Mr. Sawyer has done as much for the welfare of the mission as any missionary who has had charge. He was not only a devoted parish priest, but he was respected as a citizen, and entrusted with town business of importance. As supervisor of schools, he is said to have done more to increase the efficiency of the schools of Fort Fairfield than



any man who had ever held that post before him. During his incumbency here he built churches at Limestone and Van Buren, and began one at Caribou. Going from here to Houlton, he erected a beautiful church and rectory. He is still maintaining his reputation as a builder, a recent report stating that six new churches were either in various stages of completion or else just consecrated, and all due to his energy.

The Episcopal Church in Fort Fairfield, as elsewhere in Maine, holds its own with difficulty. The deep inherited prejudice which has long since died out in other sections of the country, is as strong in Maine to-day as ever. In the face of that prejudice, with irregularity in services owing to the need that ministers should have the care of from two to six stations, growth is not to be expected. A faithful attempt to provide the services and sacraments to those who are entitled to them, is the most that may be accomplished. This Bishop Neely has faithfully tried to do for upwards of twenty-five years, at a great personal effort and expense. The present officers of St. Paul's Church are,—Rev. George Bruce Nicholson, missionary priest; Mr. H. W. Trafton, warden; Mrs. J. C. Rackliff, treasurer; Mr. C. L. Richards, parish clerk.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

## CHURCHES—CONTINUED.

## THE FREE BAPTIST CHURCH.

Among the early settlers who made their homes in this township, there were quite a number who were members of the Free Baptist Church, but it was not until some time in the fifties that they were organized into a church. From the first, this church has been earnest in its devotion to the Master, and has had within its fold a faithful and pious membership. The faithful and devoted pastors, who have ministered to the spiritual wants of the people, so far as we have been able to learn their names, are the Rev. Messrs. Purington, Carr, Park, Kinney, Parsons, Winslow, and the present pastor, Rev. George E. Kneeland. About 1875, Mr. Frederick Ellis, who was a member of this communion, was chosen deacon, and faithfully served the church, until his death in 1890. Mr. LaForest Towle, who has been church clerk almost from the first, was chosen deacon soon after Deacon Ellis' death, and at the present time fills

both of these important offices in the church.

This church has constantly made its power felt in the community; it has attracted true believers to its membership, and the young and thoughtless to its meetings. Death and removals have been at work to reduce its membership, but by profession of faith and by letter, others have come to fill their places, and the work of the Master has been advanced by their devotion and faithful living. Its position in regard to all moral and social questions will bear the Scriptural test.

## CHAPTER XXXVI.

## CHURCHES—CONTINUED.

## THE REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCH.

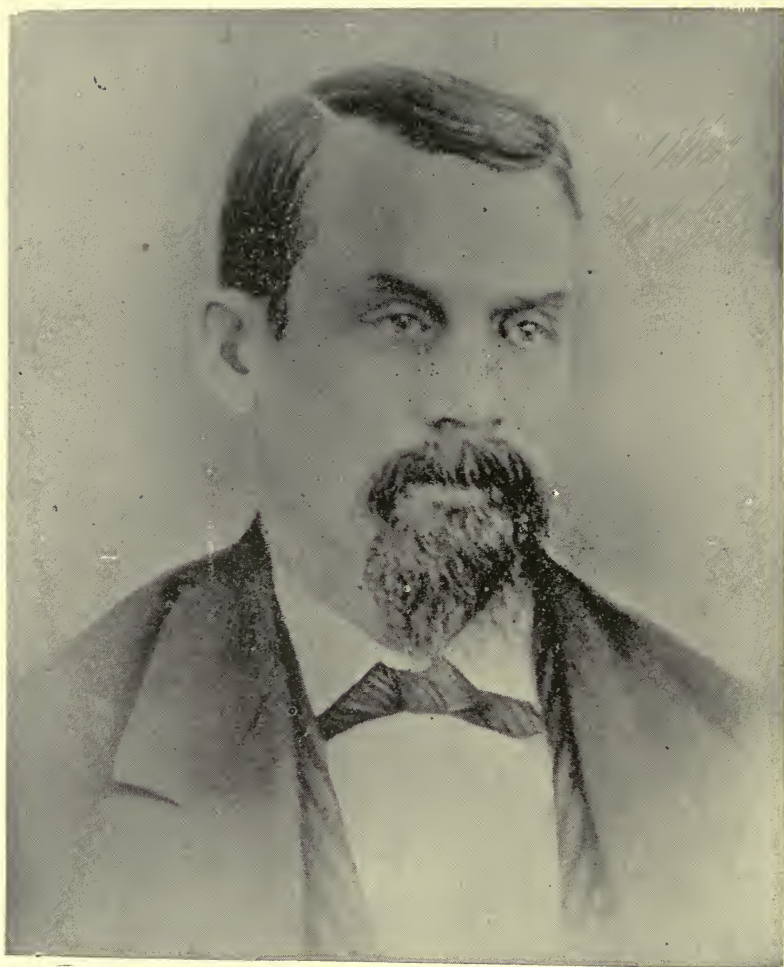
In 1860, the Regular Baptists, who had come to number about twenty-five, decided to organize a church in Fort Fairfield. The church was organized at the Union meeting house, and Dea. Daniel Foster and Mr. Jonathan Hopkinson were chosen deacons, and Wm. F. Hopkinson was elected clerk. The Rev. George Rigby was then first pastor of the church. In the fall of 1863, Mr. W. F. Hopkinson died, and Mr. W. H. Estabrook was chosen clerk. The second pastor was a young man whose name we are unable to learn. Then the Rev. Mr. Copeland served the church very acceptably. Then came the Rev. Mr. Neugent. The last settled pastor was the Rev. J. E. Bills.

Soon after the death of Dea. Foster, in 1880, by reason of death and removals, and the fact that other religious societies were supplying the people with the preached word, it was decided that for a time, at least, it was advisable not to employ

another pastor, nor to keep up separate religious meetings. And up to the present time, although there are several in the town of that faith, there has been no effort to keep up the organization, and since the death of Deacons Foster and Hopkinson, no deacons have been chosen.







HENRY A. HAINES.

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

## CHURCHES—CONTINUED.

## THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

Among the early settlers of Fort Fairfield, the society of Friends were represented. Mary and Joseph Wingate Haines, and their eldest daughter were members of that society. Although far removed from other members, they were not forgotten, and from time to time were visited, and meetings were held in their neighborhood. In 1858 or '59 a movement was started that resulted in bringing several families of that faith into the town. William A. Sampson bought the mills consisting of a saw mill, where the Bryant mill now stands, and a shingle mill on a dam a short distance below. The shingle mill was immediately transformed into a grist mill, a carding machine put in and steam power introduced.

With him, or soon to follow, were Thomas Partridge and wife, Cyrus Estes and wife, Valentine Estes and wife, Jonathan Estes and wife, Joseph Nichols and wife, William Penn Varney

and wife, and William F. Sampson and wife, and with Mr. and Mrs. Haines, made a strong and influential society. For the first year meetings were regularly held at the house of William A. Sampson, and then for another year at Valentine Estes, in the neighborhood where Rev. William Penn Varney now lives. About that time the meeting house was built in the Maple Grove settlement, where they have uninterruptedly worshiped until the present time. The society was fortunate in having among their number Mrs. Sarah Partridge (the wife of Thomas Partridge) who was a most devout, earnest and eloquent preacher.

The silent worship which at an early day held a prominent place in their meetings, was made interesting, and brought the young within their influence, by the devout prayer and earnest exhortations of this truly good woman. The years in which the country had been suffering from the turmoil of war and other communities and societies had been experiencing its evil effects, were years of almost unbroken prosperity to this people. While William A. Sampson had been active in worldly affairs he did not lose his interest in the upbuilding of the society. He was active and influential in the building of the meeting house. He was an easy and fluent speaker, and with his estimable wife, loved and respected by the community. With the close of the war a new field of labor was

opened up and the call was so urgent that he was not long in becoming interested and at work to improve the condition of the Freedmen; this took him first to Washington, D. C., and then to North Carolina, subsequently he removed to the West, then to California, where he died some two years ago. In Sarah Partridge, the society had an influential and successful worker. In the death of her husband, with the responsibility and care of a family on her hands she continued her labors. A second marriage and removal to Kennebec, for a time severed her relations with the society. But death came again to her home, and a second husband was removed; then she returned and spent the remainder of her days with her children in this town. Other changes came to the society by death and removals. Rev. Wm. Penn Varney became the head of the society, and the recognized preacher. Additions have been made from time to time, and at the present time, it is a moral and social power in the community, exerting alike a happy influence upon young and old.

At present there are some thirty-five members. The congregation of worshipers at the Maple Grove Church who have been in sympathy with the purity and devotion of their worship, and have depended very largely upon them for religious instruction and influence, have largely outnumbered the members of the society. Of the origin-



al members, Rev. William Penn Varney and wife, Joseph Nichols and wife, Jonathan Estes and wife, and Lovina Estes are yet identified with the society. The moral influence of this society has been a power in the Maple Grove settlement. In every gathering of the people, and in all their social relations it has been at work for good. Respect for its members has exerted a powerful influence upon the young people of that part of our town; to what extent it has acted upon their lives will not be known until the final judgment. As the acknowledged leader, the quiet, unobtrusive exemplary life of William Penn Varney has commanded respect, inspired confidence, and been a moral force felt by all who have been favored with his acquaintance.

The coming of that devoted band of Friends to Maple Grove in 1860 marked an important era in the history of the town, though not largely possessed of earthly means, they were in comfortable circumstances; they were industrious and reliable; they lived the religion they professed. They added considerable to the material wealth of the new settlement, and their lives and works have an important place in the history of Fort Fairfield.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

## CHURCHES—CONCLUDED.

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Among the few settlers who had made their homes along the banks of the Aroostook, now within the limits of Fort Fairfield, prior to the Aroostook war, were a few Catholic families, who, as did nearly all the settlers of those days, came from the province of New Brunswick.

The coming of the troops, and other movements consequent upon the occupation of the territory by the State, and creation of employment for labor, attracted several French families, all of whom were of this faith, from the upper St. John river; and undoubtedly there were some of the United States regulars, who were quartered here in the early forties, who were members of this communion.

From what can be learned, it appears that in 1842 a subscription was started to build a church, which resulted, in 1843, in the erection of a small building on the farm of Mr. Boulrier, about one mile

above the present village of Fort Fairfield, near the river.

The building was boarded and shingled, but advanced no farther for several years. About 1850, possibly a little later, a new effort was made. A suitable lot was secured about five miles above the village, and the building was taken down and removed to the new location, where it was put up and finished into a neat chapel, where services were held for many years.

The large increase of population outgrew the modest little chapel, and about 1875, work was commenced on the present large church in the village, where a large congregation is gathered at every service.

We have no means of giving the names of the priests who have from time ministered to the spiritual wants of the people.

Although many of these people have been in very humble circumstances, and could do but little to support religious services, they have not been neglected. Clergymen from the Madawaska settlement, from Houlton and from New Brunswick, have visited them, and administered the sacraments of the church from time to time, and of late years regular services have been maintained.

The Reverend Father DeMerchand, who resides at Presque Isle, is the present parish priest and is very acceptable to his people. The present

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wealth, standing and influence of the church, indicate that ere long the society will enjoy the presence of a priest located in their midst.

## CHAPTER XXXIX.

## BUSINESS MEN.

Through all its history Fort Fairfield has been fortunate in the class of men who have been associated with its business affairs. At the present time the mercantile and mechanical business carried on, is very extensive, and well conducted. Mr. A. C. Cary stands among the oldest merchants in this part of the county. He is the present postmaster and senior member of the Fort Fairfield Clothing Company; associated with him is Mr. Edgar Thurlow, and his son Mr. George Cary, one of the popular travelling salesmen. Mr. J. F. Hacker has grown up in the mercantile business, and his business has grown with him. Mr. Hacker has been town treasurer for several years, and is now president of the Fort Fairfield National Bank, and in addition to his extensive mercantile business, owns and manages Memorial Hall. Mr. Hacker is one of the solid men of Aroostook county.

William Small & Co. The senior member of







Very Truly Yours

R. L. Baker

this firm has been in business for a long time. He is now quite advanced in years. Several years ago he associated with himself, under the present firm name, his son-in-law, Mr. Charles W. Johnston. They carry a large stock of general merchandise, and a fine lot of furniture. Their business is ably and successfully managed.

In addition to the Fort Fairfield Clothing Co., Mr. W. W. Slocomb & Co., and J. B. Williams & Co. carry fine assortments of ready-made clothing and gentlemen's furnishing goods.

Mr. Geo. E. Bartlett & Co., and French Bros. carry an extensive stock of dry goods, and in connection with their stores, Mrs. M. C. Perry & Co., and Miss M. A. Roulston & Co. are engaged in the millinery business. These two lines of business which have such intimate relations, are in the best of hands. For careful and tasty selection of goods, for fair and honorable dealings in this, as in all other lines of trade, Fort Fairfield takes no back seat.

The Hardware business is in the hands of Messrs. L. K. Cary & Co., C. D. Cutts, J. S. Hall and S. E. Jewett. L. K. Cary & Co. carry an extensive stock of hardware, doors, sash, blinds, tinware and agricultural implements, and has quite an assortment of other goods. Mr. Cutts has a fine stock of general hardware, such as is found in a well stocked store. Mr. J. S. Hall carries a general stock of

hardware, doors, windows, blinds, wagon makers material, and iron and steel for the local blacksmiths. Mr. Jewett is a practical plumber and tin worker, carrying a line of stoves, pumps and tubing, and is at the head of the fire department.

The grocery trade has assumed a prominent position in our village. Mr. H. N. Goodhue has one of the finest and best arranged grocery stores north of Bangor. He has built up a large trade, in fact has grown up with his trade. He was a Fort Fairfield boy, and is now one of her successful business men. He believes in printer's ink, and is a liberal patron of the local press, as are nearly all our business men.

Messrs. H. Knight and Co. carry a fine class of groceries, and are having a good trade, and the confidence of the community. Mr. Knight has had a long experience, first as manager for another man, and since for himself. He has his son associated with him.

Thurlough Richards & Company have for several years been engaged in this line of trade, and in addition, have done a large out-side trade.

Mr. N. H. Martin, in connection with his restaurant, carries a fine line of light groceries.

Mr. F. O. Wellington and Alexander McDougald are supplying groceries to the people at the lower village.

Hopkins Brothers, a cut of whose store appears

in this history, in addition to the extensive meat market, carries a general line of groceries. In addition to their village trade they have a large farm two miles from town.

Joseph Pearce, whose cut also appears in this history, in addition to a regular meat market, has a bakery, and carries a line of groceries.

Mr. A. F. Goodhue has the finest jewelry store in the county, and carries a large and valuable stock. He is another of Fort Fairfield's boys who has developed into a first-class business man and has a large and paying trade.

Jeffs Brothers are also in the jewelry business, and carry a very fine and selected stock of watches and silverware.

Mrs. A. C. Paul carries a good line of books and stationery, together with room paper and millinery goods.

Messrs. Hovey & Partridge carry a fine line of boots and shoes, and both are new men, who have been engaged in business here about a year, with a good prospect of successful trade.

Messrs. Cutts & Scates have done an extensive business in the furniture, carpets, wall paper and undertakers business.

Messrs. E. E. Scates & Co. have a large line of goods, such as are usually found in a first-class drug store, and are doing an extensive business.



Palmer & Holmes are also in the same business, with a good store and a fine stock of goods.

The harness trade is represented by four establishments, viz: J. H. Watt, S. F. Lord, R. E. Burton and G. B. Churchill. All of these experienced workmen turn out good work, and a large amount of it, and deserve mention for their good work and honorable dealings.

The blacksmith trade is well represented and well patronized in Fort Fairfield. The following seven shops are always found with the fire sparkling from the forges, and the sturdy, hardy smiths hard at work. Messrs. J. Peterson, Caleb Bartlett, H. J. Palmer, C. Rollins, C. L. Smith and B. S. Smith, with J. B. Gray, a practical machinist, can turn out almost anything that iron and steel can make, and are giving steady employment to fifteen men.

W. A. Haines, at the lower village, and A. A. Hockenull, on the Lovely brook, combine the sawing of lumber and grinding of grain in their mills. The Howe's mill on the north side of the river, the extensive Stevens' Lumber Co., Magill Brothers carding and planing mill and J. B. Robbins' heading mill, combines all the village mills, and all are doing a good business.

J. N. Sukeforth does a large business in manufacturing starch and potato barrels, and F. A. Hewett and J. B. Robbins both are engaged in that business.

The market for custom made clothing is well supplied with the very best of goods in the latest styles, by Messrs. Thomas Winter, H. B. Kirkpatrick and Thomas Gamble, who are all first-class merchant tailors.

The ladies interests are well looked after by Mrs. R. E. Ketchum, Miss Jessie Bartlett, Mrs. Emily Guild, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Crummett, Miss Clara Roulston, Miss Annie Callahan, and the Misses. Mary and Belle Graham.

Mr. B. Gathercole and the Aroostook Valley Starch Co. make a good market for all the small potatoes within reach.

In addition to N. H. Martin's restaurant, Samuel Cray, Henry Davis, and the Clifton, furnish meals at all hours.

The Collins House, Mrs. M. E. Collins proprietor, the Windsor House, E. H. Thompson proprietor, and the Ervin House, Mr. Ervin proprietor, are three as good and commodious hotels as are to be found in the Aroostook valley.

There are four large and well equipped livery stables, kept by F. W. Burns, J. B. Williams, E. J. Dorsey and William Maines.

Messrs. Fred Osborne, A. P. Welch, George A. Upton, Geo. Delano, and Elmer Martenus, furnish excellent accommodations, and display great skill in the tonsorial art.

G. W. Richardson does good work at custom

made boots and shoes, and finds Fort Fairfield a good town for this business.

H. W. Varney has steam power to run wood working machinery.

J. G. Rackliff, F. C. Bolster, H. W. Ebbett, John H. Price have shops for carpenter and carriage making and repairing.

E. E. Holt has a fine steam laundry, and is well patronized and is doing a prosperous business.

Messrs. W. T. Sullivan, J. G. Cheney, J. C. Rackliff, H. B. Bearisto, S. D. Beckwith, W. Beckwith and J. C. Beckwith, represent the present list of carpenters and builders.

G. W. Hilton, Van Knowles, B. Durgin, George Delaite, H. E. Rogers, are the painters and paper hangers.

H. O. Perry, trial justice and insurance agent,  
H. W. Perry, town clerk, and insurance agent.

J. Wallace is a popular and experienced photographer.

W. E. Burpee is the popular dominion express agent.

E. L. Houghton and W. L. Bartlett are engaged in the real estate business.

L. N. Richards and A. P. Libby buy neat stock, sheep and horses, and are doing a large and growing business. Geo. E. Childs is also engaged in buying stock, selling carriages and doing a good business.

Edward W. Pond is a member of the Fin Boom Co., and agent and general manager on the Aroostook waters.

W. H. Estabrook, coroner and collector of taxes.

Capt. A. W. Putnam, Deputy sheriff.

Sixteen potato houses are controlled by the following force of potato buyers, viz: O. F. Tyler, Melvin Cayting, James Dorsey, H. Knight & Co., Thurlough Richards & Co. Fisher & Osborne, Chas. Kimball, Geo. L. Foss, Ransford Faulkner, F. A. Wiley, Richard Phillips, Philo Reed, Reuben Thurlough, E. L. Houghton. In addition to their own time, they give employment to a regular force of thirty-five men, and at times require considerable more extra help. The season for buying and handling potatoes extends from September first, until June first, and some years until the middle of June.

## CHAPTER XXXX.

## PROFESSIONAL MEN.—DR. E. G. DECKER.

Elbridge G. Decker was born in Jefferson, Lincoln County, Maine, in 1827. The common school, Unity high school and Hampden Academy supplied the means of a good education. Immediately after arriving at his majority he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. J. C. Bradley, of Oldtown, attended lectures at the Maine medical School, and graduated in 1851. The following June he started out for the new settlement of No. 11 (Ashland) and remained there seven years. He then decided to secure a new location, and in June 1858 he moved to the then diminutive village of Fort Fairfield, and became the first settled physician and surgeon in the town and was the only one to remain any length of time until Dr. A. D. Sawyer came. His practice extended over a vast territory, including what is now Presque Isle, Caribou, Limestone, Easton and Blaine, and into the settlement adjoining, in the Province of New Brunswick. By day or by night, through







Yours Very truly  
Joseph A. Crenshaw

heat or cold, often with roads so bad that his horse could only walk, in answer to calls, too often from those whom he knew were too poor to pay; he faithfully discharged the duties of the country physician, and brought gladness and joy to many an anxious and stricken household, where sorrow and death would have come without his timely and efficient aid. In 1852 he bought the building upon Fort Hill, erected by the United States troops who relieved the State militia in the celebrated Aroostook war, and since that time has made it his home.

At that time, the fort had been demolished, the building, built of large, square timber, had been taken down and sawed into boards at Pattee's mill, the stockade entirely removed; but the parapets were in a good state of preservation. The roads were so poor that he was obliged to ride on horseback, and the most of the way at a very slow pace. Into the various settlements there was only a bridlepath, where the underbrush was removed and the way marked out by spotted trees. At times the roads to Presque Isle, Caribou and the St. John river were almost impassable. The nearest market was Bangor, one hundred and sixty-seven miles away, to which shingles were hauled and "supplies" for home and lumber operations brought back. A trip to Houlton took three full days, if time was taken while there to attend to any business.

News from the outside world, three days old, and that received but once a week, was the best and latest to be obtained. The destitution and actual poverty that too often came to his knowledge while engaged in the duties of his profession, were sometimes greater burdens than the fatigue of his long and tiresome rides. His diversified and constantly varying experience was his only recreation, and in a large degree actual practice had to supply the place of books. Professional privileges were almost entirely confined to the study of medical works, and long and tiresome rides. Not until the close of the war of the Rebellion was a semi-weekly mail established from Houlton.

It was several years after he came before any fraternal societies were organized. There was not a church in the Aroostook valley except the small Catholic chapel some five miles above here on the river. The early settlers were good hearted, and some of them generous to a fault, but buckwheat and shingles took the place of currency, and even that was required to purchase food for a dependent family. The worthy physician never lacked for good will and good wishes, but at the best there was but little pay.

In some of these years, with a practice that made severe demands upon his time and strength, money was so scarce that it was difficult to collect

enough to pay for the medicine used in his practice. If enough was obtained of such as the farmers raised to support himself and wife, his time was given to regular practice, and little attention was paid to collecting bills. The doctor's home is the most prominent landmark of the Aroostook war. With the exception of the removal of the broad piazza that ran along the front of the entire building, there is little change since I saw it in 1843, then occupied by Capt. VanNess, Lieutenant Rickets and Dr. Coolidge, of the United States Infantry. Here the doctor may still be found, largely relieved of his extensive practice by younger and more active men, joining his professional brethren in consultation and in answering calls near at home from those who never forget the old and tried physician or want to exchange for the new.

The exposure and hardships of a large practice have told severely upon the doctor, and physically he has aged beyond his years, but his brain is clear, and if necessity demanded, his hand would be as strong to perform as in years gone by.

When the doctor settled here, the business on the place was largely carried on at the lower part of the village, or "down to Pattee's," as it was then called. Pattee and Hyde were engaged in the mill and lumber trade. Haines and Knight and John Sterling were keeping public houses on a



small scale, but fully up to the demands of the travelling public, and while he thought this a good place to commence the work of his profession, he never expected the bright and prosperous future that has come to our village, or the vindication of his good judgment in choosing this for a home.

While largely those here with him in pioneer life have gone on before him, those who still remain join in hoping a long and sunshiny ending to a devoted, faithful and useful life.

DR. A. D. SAWYER.

A. D. Sawyer, M. D., was born in Cumberland county, Maine, in 1855. He attended the public schools and Litchfield academy. He attended the Maine medical school, and graduated from the University of the city of New York with the title of M. D., in 1880.

Immediately after graduating, he commenced the practice of medicine at Lisbon, and the same year was married to Miss Mabel C. Spear. After five years' practice in this, his native town, he removed to Fort Fairfield. Since coming to this town the doctor has been in constant practice of his profession, and has proved an able and successful practitioner. In addition to his professional duties, he has taken a lively interest in educational matters, and from 1889 to 1892 he was supervisor of schools. At the March meeting of 1894 he was chosen chairman of the board of school

committee, and by the other members of the board elected again to the office of supervisor of schools. For four years he has with great acceptability served on the United States pension board, and at the present time is secretary of the board.

His home is cheered by the presence of three active, lively boys. The doctor is an active and influential Mason, and as a professional man and citizen is held in high esteem by all who know him.

DR. D. J. BELL.

D. J. Bell, M. D., is of Loyalistic descent, and was born at Bristol, Carleton county, New Brunswick, in 1863, and received an education in the common schools of that place. His medical degree was conferred by the Maine medical school of Bowdoin University, in 1888. He opened a general practitioner's office in the village of Fort Fairfield the same year, and commenced practice, and by close attention to his professional duties, has achieved a fair amount of success. His wife, whom he married in 1888, was a Miss Miller of Glassville, Carleton county, New Brunswick.

The doctor has established his residence and office at the Parapet, Fort Hill, where he is snugly entrenched within the earthworks of the old fort, from which the town takes its name.

DR. JAS. HARVEY MURPHY.

Jas. Harvey Murphy, M. D., was born in An-

dover, New Brunswick, Dominion of Canada, May 4th, 1866. The foundation for a practical education was laid in the Andover high school. July 4, 1883, when but little over seventeen years old, he entered a drug store as an apprentice, at Calais, Me.

After three years' experience and careful study, and having removed to Madison, Wisconsin, in 1886 he received a diploma as a pharmacist. After three years more of experience and study, in 1889 he entered the medical school at Brunswick, Me., and June 24th, 1891, he graduated with honor, and received the title of M. D., and on July 12 of the same year he opened an office and commenced the practice of his profession in this village.

Dr. Murphy, by careful attention to business, has built up a good practice, and secured a good social and professional standing in the community. The doctor is unmarried, makes his home at the Ervin House, and is devoted to his profession, with every indication of a successful future before him.

## CHAPTER XXXXI.

## PROFESSIONAL MEN.

## HON. JOHN B. TRAFTON.

John B. Trafton was the eldest son of Gen. Mark Trafton. He was born in Bangor, Maine, where he spent his boyhood, and had the advantages of schools. He remained in school one year after his father came to this county, and then in 1844 became a resident of this town, (Letter D plantation), and opened a law office on Fort Hill, in one of the offices vacated by the officers of the United States troops. This was the introduction of a new system into the new settlement, and was looked upon at first with some degree of suspicion. While the settlers were not above disputes and disagreements, they were too poor to engage in law suits, and what could not be settled by a knock-down argument, had been allowed to go by default.

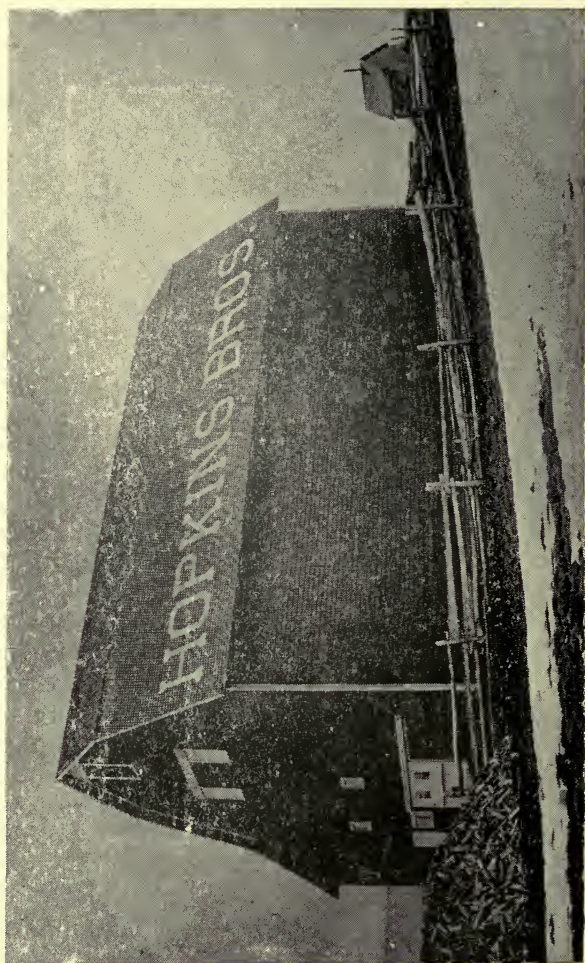
Mr Trafton, with wisdom and dignity far beyond his years, soon established a reputation that gave him influence among the settlers for good, and

came to be looked up to as a friend, who would give advice that would be wise to follow, without a thought on the part of the receivers that it was valuable counsel that ought to be paid for, and in most instances on account of the poverty of receivers, was given in the same spirit. While for many years he was the only lawyer north of Houlton, his paying practice was very small, and he found it necessary to engage in other business to make a living. He thus became actively engaged in lumbering, milling and farming, doing an important work in the development of the "infant industries" of the new settlement.

He was postmaster from 1844 to 1849, and from 1853 to 1860, and for twelve years filled the important and responsible position of county attorney. In this time it fell to his lot to manage for the State many important criminal matters, notably the trial and conviction of James Matthews for murder in 1854. This case he managed without assistance against eminent counsel engaged for the defence. This we think is the only trial for murder in an Aroostook court. Matthews was sentenced to be hanged, but died in prison before the execution of his sentence. Mr. Trafson had an important part in the first attempt to execute the then new prohibitory law, in the courts. The first prosecutions aroused great interest on the part of the public, a large majority of the people of the







county at that time being apparently very much against the law, and openly opposed to its enforcement.

He took an active and influential part in the organization of the 15th Maine Regiment, and was offered the position of one of its field officers, but decided that both his country and his own interests demanded that it should go to another. He has ever remained a friend of the soldiers, and the cause for which they fought.

Mr. Trafton's boyhood was spent amidst the most popular days of Democratic supremacy, and he came to his majority when it had obtained a power and influence possessed by no other party in the history of our country. How much this may have had to do with his decision we may never know, but this we do know, he cast his lot with that party, and has always been a consistent, active worker and leader among its hosts.

Those familiar with the political history of our country and State since 1860 will see that this has been greatly to his disadvantage so far as political preferment was concerned. He has devoted himself to his profession, maintaining a high reputation as a counselor, citizen and friend. In 1868 he was the candidate of his party for presidential elector. In 1880 he was a delegate to the Democratic national convention at Cincinnati. For many years he has been president of the county bar association,

and held in high esteem by his professional associates. Of late years he has been somewhat less active in politics, but is earnestly and successfully engaged in his professional duties.

In 1847 he embarked upon the matrimonial sea. He married Miss Sarah Staple of Sangerville, Me., and laid the foundation for a quiet, peaceful and happy life. To them have been born children, of whom two only have lived to years of maturity: a devoted, lovely daughter, the wife of C. B. Roberts, Esq., of Caribou, and Herbert W. Trafton, Esq., for two years the able and efficient school director, under whose supervision town and village schools have maintained their high standing. He has also served one term as deputy collector at this place, and is a member of the law firm of Trafton and Trafton of this village.

#### HON. NICHOLAS FESSENDEN.

Nicholas Fessenden, son of Hewett C. and Mary T. Fessenden, and a grandson of General Samuel Fessenden of Portland, was born at Saco in York county, November 23d, 1847. In 1855 his father removed to Eastport, in Washington county, and there the subject of this sketch resided until manhood, obtaining his education in the schools of Eastport, then as now, among the best in the State, at the Lewiston Falls academy, since known as the Edward Little institute, and at Bowdoin college, which he entered in 1864. He read law with the

late John H. French of Eastport, and also in the office of Gen. S. D. Leavitt, and was admitted to practice at Machias in April, 1868.

After practicing a year in Calais, and something less than a year in Pembroke, Mr. Fessenden came to Fort Fairfield in October, 1871, where he has ever since resided, having married Laura E., daughter of the late John Sterling, who was one of the pioneers of Fort Fairfield, or, as it was formerly called, Letter D, Range 1.

The village of Fort Fairfield in 1871 was but a "country corner," compared with the town of today; and law practice yielding but a trifling income, Mr. Fessenden devoted himself to teaching and waiting for the business which he confidently believed would come with the growth of the town and surrounding country.

At one time and another Mr. Fessenden has held various municipal offices. He was the second town clerk ever elected, succeeding the late Henry W. Hyde, (who had held the office from the incorporation of the town in 1858, until his death in 1873.) He served one or more years as supervisor of schools and as a member of the board of school committee, and for eight successive years, from 1875 to 1883, was an active member of the board of municipal officers, interesting himself in every measure which tended to advance the development and progress of the town, and losing no



opportunity to advocate whatever seemed to promise the future advancement of its prosperity.

For four years, from 1877 to 1880, Mr. Fessenden served the county as register of probate. In 1883-4 he was a member of the executive council, during Governor Robie's first term,—was clerk of the Maine house of representatives in 1885-7-9, and in January, 1891, was elected secretary of State, the duties of which office he is discharging at the time of this writing.

For many years Mr. Fessenden has been closely identified with the great order of Oddfellowship, and has been honored by the membership with the office of grand master, and also grand representative.

The years from 1871 until the present have witnessed the most pronounced period of growth with which Fort Fairfield has been favored. The village in this time has grown from a hamlet of eight business places and a scattered and straggling row of dwellings, into one of the pushing, thriving towns of the State, enjoying most of the modern privileges, such as waterworks, electric lighting and other conveniences which make towns pleasant and enjoyable, and it is fair to the subject of this sketch to say that his influence has been constantly and continually exercised in favor of anything conducing to sound growth.

## HON. M. N. DREW.

Morrill N. Drew, son of Hon. Jesse and Clara B. Wellington Drew, was born in Fort Fairfield May 17th, 1862. He was educated in the public schools, Bates college and the Boston university. He graduated from the law department of the latter institution in 1885, and received the degree of L. L. B.

He was admitted to the bar in May, 1885, in Androscoggin county, and during the summer of 1885 pursued the study of law in the office of Powers and Powers in Houlton.

In October, 1885, he commenced the practice of law at Fort Fairfield, and continued the practice of his profession until October, 1893, when he removed to Portland to form a partnership with Ralph T. Whitehouse, son of Judge William Penn Whitehouse.

In 1886 he was unanimously nominated by the Republican county convention for the office of county attorney, and was elected, receiving the full party vote, and filling the office so acceptably that he received a unanimous nomination again, and was elected. In 1888 he was chairman of the Republican county convention. He received a unanimous nomination for the legislature in 1890, and elected by the largest majority ever given in the district, and again in 1892 received a unanimous nomination, and was again elected. In the legis-

lature he served on three committees, viz: the judiciary, the legal affairs and taxation. In 1887 he was appointed by Governor Burleigh one of the commissioners to investigate the condition of affairs in Madawaska territory. In 1889 he was appointed by Governor Burleigh one of the commissioners to contract for, and purchase land for the settlers in Madawaska territory. In the performance of all these official duties Mr. Drew has displayed marked ability, and given the best of satisfaction to the public whom he has served.

In 1892 he was active in forming the Fort Fairfield national bank, and was its president until he removed to Portland. For four years and up to the time of his removal to Portland, he was a director in Presque Isle national bank.

In December, 1892, Mr. Drew was married to Miss Sarah Louisa, daughter of Hon. Jesse Davis, of Lisbon, Maine.

Hon. Morrill N. Drew has always been a Republican in politics, and occupied a good position among his party associates, and as active in politics as has been consistent with careful attention to his professional duties. Unquestionably, there is a bright future before him, and an open field, either in the line of his profession or in the political world.

WILLIAM T. SPEAR.

William T. Spear, the oldest son of Reuben T.

and Martha S. Spear, was born in New Vineyard, Franklin county, Maine, February 19, 1853; lived in New Portland until August, 1862, when his parents emigrated to Fremont plantation, now the town of Easton, in this county, and settled on a new lot, on which they lived until 1869, when they sold and purchased the farm at Easton centre where his father resided until March, 1894. Mr. Spear's father being, like many of the early settlers of Aroostook, poor, William was brought up to work on the farm, which he did either for his father or others, until twenty years of age.

Having, like many another farmer's boy in a new settlement, been deprived of the privilege of attending school during the first twenty years of his life, except for a few weeks in winter, his education practically began in the fall of 1873, when he attended a term of high school in this town, taught by Hon. Nicholas Fessenden. From that time until 1877 Mr. Spear spent his time in attending our high school, with one term at Houlton academy, and teaching. In the spring of 1877 he entered the office of C. T. Daniels, Esq., then of Presque Isle, to study law. In the fall of that year he entered the office of the late Judge H. R. Downes of Presque Isle, with whom he was associated as a student and law partner, until November, 1880, he having been admitted to the Aroostook bar in February, 1878, when he removed to Fort Fair-



field, where he practiced his profession until April, 1882, when he removed to Houlton and formed a co-partnership with Hon. Vinal B. Wilson, with whom he was associated until January 1, 1885.

Politically, Mr. Spear has always been a Democrat, and as such, during the past eighteen years has taken an active interest in politics, discussing in nearly every campaign political questions in the press and from the stump. For several years he has served on the town and county committees of his party and been a delegate to several State conventions.

In 1876 he was the Democratic candidate for register of probate, but was defeated by Hon. N. Fessenden. In 1880 he was unanimously re-nominated for that office and elected, serving four years. In April, 1885, he was appointed deputy collector of customs at Houlton, and served in that capacity until June, 1888, when he resigned to return to Fort Fairfield to resume the practice of law, where he has since resided. In 1892, Mr. Spear was unanimously nominated as the Democratic candidate for judge of probate, but the Republicans carrying the county, he was defeated. He is now serving as a deputy collector of customs, to which office he was appointed in June, 1893. During his residence in Presque Isle he served on the school committee, or as supervisor, and from 1881 to '82,



occupied the office of town clerk of Fort Fairfield.

October 14th, 1885, he was married to Annie L., daughter of Rev. James Bennet, D. D., of St. John, N. B., by whom he has one child, a son, James Bennet Spear, born November 16th, 1891.

He has always taken a lively interest in educational and other matters that tend to build up his town, and advance the prosperity of Aroostook county.

#### JOHN N. BRIDGES.

John N. Bridges was born in Meddybemps, Me., Nov. 16th, 1866, and was educated in the public schools of his native town and of the city of Calais. He commenced the study of law in the office and with A. MacNichol of Calais, and was admitted to the Washington county bar, Judge Emery presiding, in October, 1892.

After a practice of one year in Calais, he married and immediately came to Fort Fairfield and opened an office, and is receiving a good share of business in his profession.

#### HERBERT T. POWERS.

Herbert T. Powers was born in Pittsfield, Me., November 13th, 1870; was educated in the public and high schools. He was admitted to the bar in Somerset county in September, 1892, and soon after commenced the practice of law in Blaine, in this county. One year later he found a good open-

ing in the village of Ft. Fairfield, and took the office made vacant by the removal of Hon. M. N. Drew to Portland. He has secured a good practice, and is making many friends. He is unmarried and is counted among the most promising young men of the day.

WILBERT L. BARTLETT.

Mr. Wilbert L. Bartlett, after seven years of law practice, in the fall of 1893 decided to open an office in the village of Fort Fairfield. Mr. Bartlett is an easy public speaker, a Republican in politics, and is building up a good practice.

HERBERT W. TRAFTON.

Herbert W. Trafton, only son of Hon. John B. Trafton and Sarah Trafton of Fort Fairfield, was born thirty years ago. He graduated from Colby university in the class of '86. He studied law with C. B. Roberts of Caribou and with J. B. Trafton of Fort Fairfield, and was admitted to the Aroostook county bar at the February term of the supreme judicial court in 1891. In August of the same year he was united in marriage to Miss Kate P. Winslow.

Mr. Trafton has served one term as deputy collector at Fort Fairfield, and two years as school supervisor, and is actively engaged in the law business under the firm name of Trafton and Trafton.

## CHAPTER XLII.

## PROFESSIONAL MEN—CONTINUED.

## REV. GEO. B. HESCOCK.

George B. Hescok was born in Abbot, Piscataquis county, Maine, in 1842. Before his majority he was actively engaged in the war of the Rebellion, faithfully performing the duties of a soldier until the battle of the Wilderness in May, 1864. In that memorable battle he was wounded; this was followed by weary months in the hospital, a furlough to return home, and final discharge for disability.

With health impaired, he set himself about securing a practical education, selecting teaching as a profession. This he followed until the fall of 1888, when he entered into an arrangement with the Congregational society of this village to supply their pulpit for an indefinite time with the view of becoming their pastor, should the relations thus formed prove to be mutually satisfactory.

On the 28th of March, 1889, he was ordained to the gospel ministry and installed pastor of the Fort

Fairfield Congregational Church. Since that time the Rev. Mr. Hescoek has with great acceptability discharged the important and responsible duties incumbent upon that office, and is held in high esteem by all the people who know him.

REV. J. H. BARKER, M. D.

Dr. Barker, the present pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was born in Sheffield, Sunbury county, New Brunswick. He graduated from Harvard medical school in 1859. He practiced medicine in New Brunswick for thirty years. During his medical practice he was a Christian worker, aiding the local pastors in their work. For a long time he had been strongly inclined towards the work of the regular ministry. In the spring of 1889 he made application and was admitted into East Maine conference and joined the itinerant ranks.

The immediate cause of the doctor's giving himself to this work was the immediate and miraculous healing of his present wife in April of 1885. She had been a spinal invalid for fourteen years; she had been treated by many good physicians, who had failed to help her. In the spring of that year, in answer to the prayer of faith, she received the healing touch of the Great Physician, and from a state of extreme emaciation and almost total paralysis, she rose immediately and walked.

One year after her healing she was united to Dr.



Barker in marriage, and for nine years they have been engaged in earnest and faithful work in building up the kingdom of Christ. A little one two years and eight months old now cheers the parsonage home in Fort Fairfield.

The doctor's first wife was a Miss Taylor of Sheffield, and a niece of ex-Governor Tilley of New Brunswick. She left five children, three sons and two daughters. Two of his sons are in business in Oakland, California, and the third is pastor of a Methodist church at Red Deer, Alberta county, Northwest Territory, Dominion of Canada. His daughter Stella is now cashier of the international steamship company, Eastport, Me. The other daughter is at home with her parents at the Fort Fairfield parsonage.

The pastor's present relations with his society and the people of this town have been eminently pleasant and profitable, and the prospect is that the annual conference soon to meet at Houlton will not break the bonds that now unite pastor and people.

REV. GEO. BRUCE NICHOLSON.

George Bruce Nicholson was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1862. After spending the usual time in the public schools, in 1880 he graduated from the Greenville, N. Y., military academy in view of entering the West Point military academy. That plan was abandoned, and he engaged in busi-



ness. In 1882 he was married to Miss Adelaide Smith of Boston. Subsequently, having a call to the ministry, he engaged in a thorough preparation for that work, and in 1891 was ordained deacon in the cathedral of St. Luke, Portland, Maine. He then went to Massachusetts and was in charge, temporarily, of St. James Church, Somerville.

In the fall of 1892 he was stationed at Fort Fairfield, Maine, by Right Reverend Dr. Neely, bishop of Maine, and also placed in charge of Caribou, and later of Limestone. In the fall of 1893 he was advanced to the priesthood by the Right Reverend Bishop Neely in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fort Fairfield. At the organization of the convocation of Aroostook, he was elected dean of the convocation, and instituted into the office by the bishop.

REV. GEORGE E. KNEELAND.

Mr. Kneeland is a young man who is now, after nearly two years with the Fort Fairfield Free Baptist Church, serving them with great acceptability.

He is proving to be a faithful and industrious pastor, devoted to his work, and in connection with his estimable wife, is doing good work for the Master.

WILLIAM PENN VARNEY.

William Penn Varney was born in Albion, Me., May 20th, 1832. His parents were members of the society of Friends, and through all his years

up to early manhood the influence of that society entered largely into his social surroundings.

In 1853 he married Lydia Cook of China, Maine, and in 1860 removed to Fort Fairfield and located in the south part of the town, in a new neighborhood made of members of that society. He commenced to make a home in the unbroken wilderness, and upon this location he has remained until the present time. To them have been born six children, two of whom have passed over to the better land, two are married and have pleasant and happy homes, within an hour's ride of the home of their childhood, while the youngest two are not yet of age.

In the organization of the Maple Grove Friends society, Mr. Varney took an active and influential part, and from the first was an active and worthy member, and in 1882, he became a recognized minister by the society of which he had long been a member; a position he has uninterruptedly filled until the present time. While his ministerial labors have been principally with this society, Mr. Varney is held in high esteem in the community, and is active and outspoken on all questions of reform.

REV. ELBRIDGE KNIGHT.

Elbridge Knight was born in Newport, New York, July 19th, 1812. He was educated in the public schools and Phillips academy, Andover, Mass., where he spent four years in the study of

the higher English branches, classics and civil engineering. He was professor of mathematics and theology in Holmes theological institute, Plymouth, New Hampshire. While principal of Craftsbarry academy, Craftsbarry, Vermont, the Vermont university conferred upon him the degree of A. M. He was married December 10th, 1841, in Montpelier, Vt., to Miss Anne Whitten of Boston, Mass. She was born in Rochester, Vt., April 6th, 1816. To them have been born nine children: Herman Knight, born in December, 1842, and now residing in Fort Fairfield. Homer W., now residing in Boston, Mass., Mary Anna, deceased, Ella May, now residing in Presque Isle, Herbert D.,—in business at Presque Isle, died in February, 1894,—Effie, now in Boston, Mass., Henry Elbridge, now in Colorado, Dora Eunice, deceased, and Adelbert H., who now resides on the old homestead in Fort Fairfield.

In 1852 he became the acting pastor of the Congregational Church, which relation he sustained for nearly fifteen years. He was social and approachable, and gained the confidence of old and young. His congregations were good, and while much of his time was taken with his official duties, he made him a comfortable home and good farm out of the wilderness. An idea of the ministerial work may be obtained when we realize the bad condition of the roads, and that his labors extend-

ed to Littleton, Washburn, Limestone and neighboring plantations. In a single month he traveled over three hundred miles in going to and returning from funerals. His early training as a civil engineer was of good use in the new country. By his careful work and good advice many disputes about boundary lines were settled. He was for a time in the employ of the State in lotting out the land of the settlers under the Webster-Ashburton treaty, and lotted the town of Washburn for settlement.

As a public speaker he was logical, earnest and effective, always carrying the conviction to his hearers that he believed what he preached. Mr. Knight was an earnest anti-slavery man, and when the struggle for supremacy came he was an earnest Republican.

With slavery destroyed, he looked upon intemperance as its great twin evil, and believing the organization of a distinct political party, the best means to secure its overthrow, he has become an earnest and conscientious Prohibitionist.

Coming to a new country with its hardships and privations, he cheerfully accepted the situation, and has been a faithful and successful worker in advancing its interests and general prosperity. and by reading and study has kept well abreast of its steady advancement, and at the age of eighty-two is well posted in public affairs, and an interesting and instructive conversationalist.

## CHAPTER XLIII.

## SOCIETIES.

## GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

It was not until 1882 that the ex-soldiers of Fort Fairfield decided to organize a Grand Army post. This organization, perfected by the mustering in and election of the proper officers, brought together from time to time the "old soldiers" and revived old associations, and kept the fires of patriotism burning. Since its first organization in October, 1882, there have been mustered into the post one hundred and twenty members. The source from which numbers can be drawn point forward to the time when this organization must become extinct. None but men who have served in the Union army in defence of the Union and have an honorable discharge are eligible to membership, and when death invades their ranks it leaves them without the means of re-filling them. In a few short years the last meeting will be called to order, the last campfire enjoyed and the last recital of reminiscences been made.



Already thirty of the veteran comrades have been honorably discharged; fourteen have answered to the last roll call, and others have removed to other states, while holding their membership here, leaving many vacant seats.

The strong hold and kind remembrance in which this organization now stands will best be understood by future generations, from the consideration that a day has been set apart by the nation, in which all the loyal people of the country join the Grand Army posts in decorating soldiers' graves, and assemble for memorial addresses; and in this year, A. D. 1894, nearly forty years after the close of the war, the people assembled at their annual town meeting voted to appropriate fifty dollars for the use of Kilpatrick Post, G. A. R., to aid in appropriately observing Memorial Day.

#### MASONS.

Eastern Frontier Lodge No. 112, F. and A. M., was organized May 8th, 1862, and has been regularly at labor until the present time. The following are the charter members: F. W. Smith, D. W. Orcutt, E. P. Whitney, J. B. Robbins, H. L. Foster, J. B. Trafton, James Doyle, A. P. Wellington, B. T. Durgin, Isaac Hacker and E. G. Decker.

Up to the present time it has conferred the degree of master mason upon two hundred persons, counting among its members many of the most reliable citizens of this and adjoining towns; thirty-

three have died, others have demitted to join sister lodges, and others to remove to other localities, until the present membership is reduced to one hundred. Forty-two of its members were in the Union army in the war of the Rebellion. After many changes, it is located in a beautiful hall upon the second floor of a fine building owned by the fraternity. The following are the officers: W. W. Slocumb, W. M.; E. L. Houghton, S. W.; G. S. Stevens, J. W.; J. S. Hall, treasurer; N. H. Martin, secretary; H. W. Trafton, S. D.; F. C. Jeffs, J. D.; O. S. Ginn, S. S.; W. S. Davidson, J. S., and S. F. Lord, T.

#### ODD FELLOWS.

Pioneer Lodge No. 77, I. I. O. F., Fort Fairfield, Maine, was instituted February 22d, 1881.

There was at that time but five Odd Fellows to be found in the county, viz: Rev. G. M. Park, J. A. Bridges, F. Jones, E. W. Lowney and J. A. Buzzell.

These, together with seven others upon whom the degrees were conferred at that time, constituted the charter members of the lodge.

The first officers were as follows: Rev. G. M. Park, N. G.; J. A. Bridges, V. G.; N. H. Martin, secretary; J. C. Lunt, treasurer; H. N. Goodhue, W.; C. D. Cutts, C.; H. D. Mills, J. D.; S. M. Grant, R. S. S.; F. A. Buzzell, L. S. S.; F. A. Grant, R. S. N. G.; C. E. Powers, L. S. N. G.; W. R. Grant,

chaplain; A. O. French, R. S. V. G., and N. G. Gilbert, N. S. V. G.

With the first year lodges at Houlton, Caribou and Presque Isle were instituted, the charter members withdrawing from the Fort Fairfield lodge. They now have a large and flourishing lodge of one hundred and forty members, and own the post office building, with a large and well furnished hall on the second floor.

#### THE ENCAMPMENT.

On February 24th, 1884, Northern Light Encampment No. 142 was instituted, with thirteen charter members and the following officers: E. E. Scates, C. P.; J. S. Stevens, H. P.; D. S. Jones, S. W.; C. D. Cutts, J. W.; E. C. Betts, secretary, and F. S. Burpee, treasurer.

The charter members of the encampment at Presque Isle have withdrawn, and yet they have a flourishing membership of eighty-seven.

#### CANTON WABASSO.

June 26th, 1888, Canton Wabasso, No. 22 was instituted, with twenty-five charter members, and the following officers: C. D. Cutts, captain; Geo. E. Bartlett, lieutenant; H. N. Goodhue, ensign; E. E. Scates, clerk, and B. T. Durgin, treasurer.

After the withdrawal of charter members for Canton Columbia, Presque Isle, and Canton Houlton, Houlton, Me., this canton has fifty active (uniformed) members, with C. D. Cutts, captain, and E. E. Scates, clerk.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

There is also a lodge of the Knights of Pythias, with Dr. J. H. Murphy C. C. and H. T. Powers K. of R. and S.; a lodge of the Independent Order of Foresters,—G. W. Richardson C. R., and C. L. Richards F. secretary; the Knights of the Golden Rule, and the usual societies of young people connected with the several churches.

Both the W. C. T. U. and the non-partisan W. C. T. U. have flourishing societies. The Chatauqua Circle has its regular meetings, and has an active, intelligent membership.

## FORT FAIRFIELD MAY 1, 1894.

In addition to all the other advantages, Fort Fairfield in 1894 has one of the finest water systems in the country. The quality of the water cannot be surpassed, and with a pressure of sixty pounds to the square inch, it gives the best possible protection against fire. Lying along the Aroostook river, a perfect system of sewerage can easily be secured, and within easy reach is a waterpower by which electric lights, and power for street railways and manufacturing, are at her command.

While broad farms dot her hillsides and valleys, there are beautiful forests to make a varying landscape, and without marring its beauty, many more broad acres may be subdued.

Her wealthy farmers, her active, enterprising business men, her able and reliable professional

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men, have already laid the foundation, and the natural development and prosperity of a few more years will see a live, flourishing and prosperous city. It is fitting and proper, in closing this history, to give brief biographical sketches, not only of those who laid the foundation, and those who are manor born, but of those who are the active and successful workers of the present day.



## CHAPTER XLIV.

## DEACON HIRAM STEVENS.

Hiram Stevens was born in the town of Strong, now Franklin county, Maine, in April, 1818. His father removed to North Salem, and from there to Abbott, Piscataquis county, before his majority.

In the winter of 1838 and 1839, the dispute in regard to the northeast boundary having culminated in actual hostilities, he stood three successive drafts in the town of Sangerville, where he had been at work for about one year. Being disappointed in his hopes of being hit by the draft, he was fortunate in finding one of the drafted men of that town, Mr. Joseph Parsley, who did not take kindly to the exposures and dangers of the war, who was glad to give him the magnificent sum of twenty dollars, all in cash and at one payment, to take his place in the ranks, and leave him in the peaceful enjoyment of home, secure from the exposure and hardships, if not dangers, of a frontier war.

With the other drafted men he was immediately

taken to Bangor, where their number was made up to two hundred men. In two days they were started for the Aroostook, under the command of Lieutenant Dunning, their destination being township Letter D, lying on the boundary line between Maine and New Brunswick, which is now the south half of the town of Fort Fairfield.

There were many weary days of travel through damp snow before they arrived at Houlton, where they were allowed to remain one whole day, to receive military instructions. One day's march from Houlton brought them to the end of the road in Monticello.

From Monticello they made their way to Presque Isle, through lumber roads where they could be found, and cutting temporary roads the rest of the way. The soldiers who were sent to Fort Fairfield before this detachment, went through Patten and struck the Aroostook river at Masardis, and came down the river on the ice.

Presque Isle village at that time consisted of a sawmill and gristmill combined, a small log house and framed barn or stable. In about one month after leaving Bangor an order reached them to discharge all the drafted men, and secure as many as chose to remain as volunteers, at one dollar per day. A large majority had seen quite enough of the hardships of frontier life, and gladly availed themselves of the opportunity to return to their homes.

Mr. Stevens cast his lot among the minority, and became actively identified with the work of the volunteer force.

Those coming under the first and second drafts had built a boom across the Aroostook river, near the head of what was then known as Burtzell's island, to stop the pine timber that had been cut that winter.

After the militia was disbanded, the volunteer force built a large blockhouse on Fort Hill, with a heavy stockade around it, and a small one on the site where Mr. Arthur Libby's dwelling house now stands, where a six pound brass cannon was mounted with grape and cannister to protect the boom. This cannon has an unwritten history. How it afterwards found its way to Fort Kent, and suddenly and mysteriously turned up in time for a 4th of July celebration at Fort Fairfield since the late war, and as mysteriously disappears, only to return when the boys decide to celebrate some great event, are among the mysteries that should not be revealed in the lifetime of those active in the exciting times.

The entire service of the boom was confined to stopping timber in the spring of 1839, and that timber was nearly all used in building the above named blockhouses. While it is possible at extreme low water to find the bottom of one or more piers, it would be impossible to determine its ex-

act location. The nearest post office was Houlton, and David Bubar was hired by the volunteers during the summer of 1839 to carry the mail. He carried the mail on his back, and made the trip once in two weeks.

The most of the summer of 1839 was consumed in constructing a road from the Fort to Monticello. A force of eighty men was divided into two crews, and alternate sections from three to five miles each were built by them. Mr. Stevens had charge of one of these crews until the road was completed via Presque Isle to Monticello, then he was employed in building a bridge across the stream at Monticello. While thus engaged, he was ordered to go to Fort Kent and take charge of building a blockhouse at that point, together with building a pier in Fish river. This was completed in the winter of 1839-40.

His position while employed by the State gave him a good chance to become acquainted with the country, and led to his deciding to make a farm near the centre of Letter D township. He followed the lot line for one and one half miles from the State road into an unbroken wilderness, and took two beautiful quarter sections of land, a large part of which is now embraced in the valuable farms of Messrs. James R. and Reuben Thurlough, in the Maple Grove settlement.

In 1842, five acres of trees were felled, and the



following spring the land was cleared and put into crop. In 1844 larger improvements had been made and a house and barn had been erected; and on February 23, 1845, he was married to Miss Dorcas B. Whitney, daughter of William Whitney, who with his family had moved into this town three or four years before.

Mr. Stevens was a man of great physical force, of temperate habits, and of indomitable will. Only a few years were required to bring out of the wilderness a beautiful, well cultivated farm. A part from the north side had been sold to his brother and passed into other hands; and in 1864 he sold to a Mr. Hinkley of Bangor, for \$2,000, and with his wife and young family moved on to a new farm in the northwest part of the original Letter D plantation. Here he went to work to make a larger farm and to add to this a valuable mill property. Finding on his farm and land adjoining a large amount of cedar timber, in 1867 he erected a steam shingle mill and at once commenced the manufacturing of cedar shingles. This proved a very successful operation, and was carried on successfully for several years.

While engaged in this business, in July, 1867, he met with a sad affliction in the death of his wife, leaving him with a family of nine children,—five sons and four daughters.

With his growing business interests and this



large family, an early marriage became almost a necessity, and in June, 1868, he was united for the second time in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Goodhue.

Finding his milling operations so successful, and his sons disposed to remain with him and help carry on the business, he began to look for a more desirable location. In 1879 he succeeded in buying a most desirable farm on the Aroostook river, where he immediately commenced to build up his present extensive and valuable mill property. In 1875, death for the second time deprived him of his wife, and again his home is made complete in his marriage to Mrs. Annabel Hamm.

In 1881 he sold his farm and first mill for \$5,000, and since that time has been constantly and successfully engaged in the lumbering and milling business. Here the foundation was laid to carry on a business that has united with him his five sons for its successful management. This movement called for a large increase of capital, and has culminated in the building up of one of the finest and most valuable properties on the Aroostook river.

#### THE STEVENS LUMBER COMPANY.

The Stevens lumber company was incorporated in 1893. The property embraced in this company was purchased and built up by Hiram Stevens and company, and has been in successful operation

nearly eighteen years, and consists of a beautiful stretch of interval on the south bank of the Aroostook river nearly one and one half miles in length, upon which is located their mills consisting of six shingle machines, one clapboard machine and clapboard planer, one "rotary" saw with gang edge, a lath machine and board planer, all complete for first class work; the power is a one hundred and sixty horse power engine, a dam at the foot of an island and boom extending up the river, lit up by electric lights by night for catching and sorting lumber, making it complete for a first class business. In connection with this mill there are six fine residences occupied by the several members of the firm, a large boarding house, and several houses built for and occupied by men in their employ, with all necessary outbuilding for storing manufactured lumber, and such farm building and stabling as their business and the stretch of land they own require, making it one of the best arranged, best located and most desirable pieces of property in the country. In addition to the home property the company own a large mill with one of the best water-powers in New Brunswick, on Salmon river, where two members of the firm are employed the most of the time.

The Salmon River mills. has two more shingle saws, but in other respects is a counterpart of the home mill.

The running of these mills gives direct employment to ninety-four men, and in addition to these, the loading of cars, the handling of lumber in the boom, and all other work that necessarily becomes a part of the business, gives employment for other help. Through the winter months the securing of lumber for their mills gives employment to at least three hundred men, besides many teams.

That part of the property in this town embraces about two hundred acres, the most of which is under cultivation.

The company consists of Messrs. Hiram Stevens, Levi W. Stevens, A. E. Stevens, H. D. Stevens and C. H. Stevens. The capital stock of the company is \$100,000, of which \$72,200 is paid up.

Mr. Levi W. Stevens since his majority, with the exception of six years, has remained with his father, and for the last eighteen years has been in company with him in business, and now has the general management of the Stevensville mills.

James S. Stevens, the second son, has always been with his father, either at work or as a partner in business, and has the general management of the Salmon River mills.

A. E. Stevens is in the store, and book-keeper and secretary for the company, at Stevensville.

H. D. Stevens occupies a fine residence in this village, and assists in a general oversight of their extensive business at Stevensville.

The youngest son received the advantages of a liberal education. He is a graduate of the Maine State agricultural college. He is at the Salmon River mills, assisting his brother in their management.

All five of these successful business men have wisely chosen the marriage relation, and have delightful, happy homes and interesting families, with every assurance that in the future as at present, they will fill a large place in the social and business relations of our town.

With schools and religious meetings established for those in their employ, Stevensville is one of the most orderly and happy neighborhoods to be found in many a day's travel.

## CHAPTER XLV.

## CAPTAIN STEPHEN B. PATTEE.

Stephen Burbank Pattee, son of the Rev. John Pattee, was born in Holderness, N. H., February 9th, 1815; when about twelve years old he was left largely to depend upon himself. For a time he was employed on a schooner making regular trips between Bangor and Boston; then he was employed in a bakery and confectionery establishment.

In 1839 he married Miss Philenia Ward Goodhue, and soon after removed to Aroostook county. For a short time he was in business in Houlton, in company with Timothy Frisbee.

March 17, 1839, he was a member of the Bangor rifle company, and under Lieutenant Colton reported to the commanding officer for duty. From the first his ability as a leader was recognized, and for his entire period of service of nearly a year, he had charge of men and was entrusted with important duties.

In command at the upper blockhouse, upon ex-



ploring expeditions, and as deputy sheriff, his duties were discharged faithfully, prudently, and in a fearless manner.

It was not until 1843 that we became personally acquainted with Captain Pattee; he was then engaged in business at what was then known as "down to Pattee's." The sawmill was in operation, and he and Albion P. Haywood had formed a co-partnership under the firm name of Pattee and Haywood. He was then laying the foundation upon which rested the wonderful social and political influence he exercised from 1845 to 1855.

As a business man, he was not only accommodating but generous to the poor settlers; as a citizen he was social and affable; as a politician he was an indomitable worker; he was a Whig every day in the year, and never lost sight of an opportunity to win men to his way of thinking. No man in Fort Fairfield was appealed to more frequently, and from none the poor and needy went away with more kind words and material aid. It is possible that his business might have been more a success, if business principles, and not charity, had been the governing rule. For all the years he was in Fort Fairfield, he was devoted to its prosperity, he was loyal to its public interests, he was looked up to as a leader, he was honored again and again by elections, and appointed to offices, all of which he filled with honor to himself and the utmost satisfaction to all concerned.

In addition to his co-partnership with Mr. Haywood, after Mr. Haywood removed to Houlton, the firm name became Pattee and Hyde.

HON. JESSE DREW.

The Drew family of England descend from an early noble Norman, tracing the line through centuries. Members of the family accompanied William the Conqueror to England, participated in the memorable battle of Hastings, 1060, and were granted lands in Devon, Hereford and elsewhere, enrolled in the Domesday book. According to a preamble to the Drew pedigree, given by the king of Arms, "the ancient and knightly family of Drew of Devonshire are lineal descendants from Richard, Duke of Normandy, grandfather of William the Conqueror. Sir Edward Drew was a descendant of this line. John Drew, the grandfather of Sir Edward Drew, emigrated to Plymouth, Mass., in 1660." Hon. Jesse Drew, the son of Stephen Drew, a descendent of John Drew, was born in Turner, Maine, September, 21st, 1808, where he resided during his early life. He was married in May, 1834, to Hannah T. Phillips of Turner, and there were born to them Hannah G., deceased, Franklin M., Delphina M., deceased, Anna P., deceased, and George E. She died at Paris, August 27, 1852. He married again December 14th, 1857, Clara B., daughter of General Joel Wellington of Monticello, and there were born to them Gertrude,

deceased, and Morrill N. His second wife died at Fort Fairfield Oct. 2d, 1897. He died in Lewiston at the residence of his son, Col. Frank M. Drew, August 31st, 1890.

For nearly a half century he was a prominent citizen. For many years he was a deputy sheriff in the town of Turner, and then deputy sheriff and jailer at Paris. In 1853 he received an appointment in the land office and moved to Letter II, now Caribou; he soon formed a partnership with Hon. Washington Long, and with him carried on at Letter II, and subsequently at Fort Fairfield, the lumber business, until the appointment of Mr. Long as collector of customs at Eastport in 1861. In June, 1865, he was appointed deputy collector of customs at Fort Fairfield, and continued in this office for sixteen years. He represented the Fort Fairfield district in the legislature for the years 1883-84. This service concluded his public career, extending over a period of more than forty years, and it can be truthfully said, "he was a good and faithful servant;" he was pleasant, efficient and honest, considerate alike of the duties he owed the public and the authority which he served. Politically, Mr. Drew was a Democrat until the formation of the Republican party, which he then joined, and ever after continued to support. In the best sense of the word he was a born politician; he loved the study and practice of politics, not so

much for the reward in the acquisition of office, as the pleasure and gratification it afforded his enquiring mind, and the opportunity it afforded him to promote his political views and aid his friends. This led him to become a close student of men and measures, and few men better understood than he, how men are politically influenced, and how more skilfully to bring to pass desired ends. His fidelity and activity in the support of his friends gave him a large and influential acquaintance throughout the State. He was particularly interested in the welfare and promotion of young men; and to his kindly suggestions and influence not a few men owe their early political success.

Mr. Drew was a public spirited man; he always identified himself with the place in which he resided, and took great interest in its growth and prosperity. He was very much attached to the town of Fort Fairfield and its inhabitants; he was, during the many years he resided there, deeply interested in everything that promised to contribute to the growth, prosperity and advancement of the village. He was active in inducing the New Brunswick railway company to extend its road to Fort Fairfield; active in having sidewalks built, and trees set out to adorn the streets, and for many years these will testify to his public spirit and forethought.

Mr. Drew had a legal mind, and had he turned



to the law in his earlier years, he would easily have taken rank with the leading lawyers of the State. The court room had ever great attractions for him, and his judgment and wise counsel were constantly sought by many of his townspeople. For one of so great knowledge and experience of men, Mr. Drew was over modest; he underestimated his own abilities, and hence occupied a less prominent position in the State than his natural and acquired capabilities entitled him to.

For many years he was easily the most prominent citizen of this town, and far and wide he was known as "Uncle Jesse"—the term being, in his case, a title of affection and respect, fittingly applied and becomingly won. In religious belief he was a Universalist, and was loyal to his denomination. The universal love and fatherhood of God took hold of his heart and showed forth in his pure life and sympathy for humanity, and his deep love for his friends and family. He was an honorable man; he detested low cunning and artifice; his motives will bear the full light of mid-day; he was charitable in his judgment of others' acts and tolerant of others' opinions; he was gentle, simple and courteous in manners; he was sociable and agreeable, and loved the company of the young, and until the last, lived in the present instead of the past. His last years abounded in graceful contentment and enjoyment; although his sight was dimmed, and he



was deprived of the privilege of reading and correspondence, which had been a great pleasure to him, he did not allow the darkness to cloud his life. He bravely bore the infirmities of age, and accepted, uncomplainingly, the gradual wearing away of his bodily strength, until at last, at the ripe age of more than fourscore years, never more loved and respected, in the home of his son, as he wished it, his life work ended and all its happiness enjoyed, the final summons came to him, and "death smiled upon him, as smiles silent and peaceful night upon the exhausted laborer."

#### THE HAINES FAMILY.

Joseph Wingate Haines was born in Hallowell, Maine, in 1804, and was a member of the Haines family of Kennebec and Oxford counties, and a first cousin of Hon. George Evans.

In 1828 he married Miss Mary Briggs of Winthrop. In 1847 he moved to "the Aroostook" with his family of twelve children; two (a pair of twins) were born after they came here. He bought of Freeman Ellis, Jr., the land from which he made the celebrated Haines farm in Maple Grove. He obtained a grant of land from the State and built a mill where the Bryant mill now stands, that was of great benefit to the early settlers, he having the means to employ considerable help; he brought valuable improved stock into the county, and was an enterprising, progressive farmer, and a

member of the agricultural society, of which he was a successful and efficient president; he was also a successful and popular member of the State board of agriculture. Dying in 1876, at the age of seventy-two years, he left a large family, which has occupied too large a place in Fort Fairfield to receive a passing notice.

Lydia E., the eldest of the family, at the age of twenty, married Caleb Ellis. She had made the best possible use of her opportunities to secure an education, and was a successful school teacher. She filled the position as the wife of an itinerant Methodist minister, both in the East Maine, and Michigan conferences. She loyally followed her husband to the south, and cared for him in his sickness. She was a true wife and mother, devoted to her family and friends. She died in Ellenville, South Dakota, July 7th, 1886, and was laid beside two of her children, who had gone before, in the Liberty cemetery in Michigan.

Abigail, the second child, left home in her early womanhood, and went to Massachusetts. She subsequently married. She has been dead for several years.

Henry A. was born in Hallowell, Maine, in 1833. In 1854 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Frances Knight, and to them were born three children, Mrs. Adda May Richardson, in Pennsylvania, William A., proprietor of the saw

and gristmill in this village, and Ida B., who makes her home with her mother.

Mr. Haines was largely engaged in the mill business, and in 1865, he bought the sawmill at the lower village. In 1882, in company with his son William A., he bought the mill privilege and rebuilt the gristmill, where he was actively engaged until the time of his death, in March, 1889. He succeeded in building up a good property, and lived and died respected by all who knew him.

George W., soon after his majority, bought fifty acres from the home farm, and married a wife. To them were born two children; one died in his early manhood, the other married Mr. I. H. Kipp, and is now living on the old homestead, where she was born, Mr. Haines making his home with his daughter and son in law. He was for many years the Maple Grove postmaster, has filled several town offices, and is a respected citizen.

Mary, the third daughter, married Augustus Rackliff, and died in her early womanhood.

John W. has been a hard working, industrious and prosperous farmer. Death has again and again visited his home; he is now living with his third wife, upon his farm on the north side of the river. Mr. Haines has always retained his residence in this town.

Daniel W. Haines soon after his majority enlisted in the 1st Maine cavalry. He was a most ex-

cellent soldier, and able to do almost uninterrupted duty. He came home with health impaired, and a few years closed his earthly career.

Nancy, the fourth daughter, married Warren C. Plummer. He was an officer in the 15th Maine regiment. They went to Pennsylvania, where she died, leaving two daughters.

Albert L. was also in the 1st Maine cavalry; he was wounded, his horse killed, and he was taken prisoner at Brandywine Station in 1863. After three weeks he was paroled, and after several months he was exchanged; he then joined his regiment and served to the end of the war. In 1847 he married Miss Mary L., daughter of Henry C. and Mary Currier. In 1874 he bought of his father the celebrated Haines farm in Maple Grove, where he has resided until the present time. His daughters are both married; the oldest to Mr. Emmons W. Houghton, and the other to Mr. H. D. Stevens, and have fine homes in this town. Mr. Haines is a successful farmer, a respected citizen, an active member of the agricultural society, and has been a member of the State board of agriculture, and was appointed by Gov. Bodwell to the farmers' national congress at Chicago in 1886.

Frank H. was born in Hallowell in 1844, and in 1867 was married to Olive, daughter of Henry C. and Mary Currier of Fort Fairfield. To them have been born three children, two sons and a daughter.

Six years ago death came, taking the eldest son, at the age of sixteen. The other son and daughter, together with his invalid wife, make up his family. His beautiful and attractive home is opposite the Grange hall, in the centre of this town. Mr. Haines is in the front rank of successful farmers, and in the possession of a valuable farm property and the enjoyment of the fruits of his toil and good management.

About one half mile south of his twin brother Frank, may be found the home of Fred Haines. At the age of twenty, with two brothers in the army, when a married brother was hit by the draft he freely took his place.

His first business venture was to buy the farm he is now on. For a time he was in the milling business.

In 1872 his wife and children were removed by death. In 1875 he married Miss Emma Thurlough. He is in possession of all that makes up a happy, prosperous, and successful farm home. He has invented a valuable piece of farm machinery, and is a reliable, independent farmer who has made life a success.

Marcella Haines died when about ten years old. Theodore D. Haines, after his majority went to Michigan, and then to Pennsylvania where he died several years ago.

Isadore D. Haines is unmarried and engaged in missionary work in the foreign fields.



## WILLIAM JOHNSTON, ESQ.

The parents of William Johnston removed in his early childhood from Maine on to the St. John river a few miles above Fredericton. Here he lived with his parents, enjoying such privileges as the new country afforded, until he became of age. Soon after his majority he went on to the Miramichi waters and engaged in lumbering. While there he became acquainted with Sarah Sutherland, and soon after they were married. Not being satisfied with the country he decided to return to the land of his nativity, of which he knew nothing save what his parents had told him. After visiting his parents on the St. John river, he decided, accompanied by his wife and a friend, to make the trip by water. A boat was bought of a size that two men could carry over the portages, and around the falls. Having it hauled to the Schoodic waters, they embarked; following the chain of lakes, crossing to the Bascanhegun, down the Mattawamkeag, up the west branch of the Penobscot, carrying it across into Moosehead lake, then down the Kennebec to the mouth of the Sandy river. Here he located a home, and for nearly fifteen years engaged in farming and in buying and driving working oxen from the Kennebec to Miramichi. In 1830 he exchanged his farm for property in Woodstock, and some five years later sold and removed on to the Aroostook river, and selected a location

on the south side of the river near the head of the Reach. Before 1839 he had cut a road from his place to the mouth of the Lovely brook, and in that year, upon the arrival of the land agent and the posse, he was probably the only man on the lower Aroostook, who had any sympathy with the American government. As soon as formal possession was taken and a military post was established, he promptly exchanged his property with Jacob Weeks and secured the river front, from a short distance above the Canadian Pacific depot to the Gellerson corner. His house was located nearly where Thos. Fisher's residence now stands. He at once opened a public house, and this was the only public house in this township for several years.

He was a man calculated to make warm personal friends, and although he kept a public house, it was often turned into a charity hospital; while those who were able were expected to pay their way, his door was never closed against those who were without money or in distress. Mr. Johnston was at an early day appointed justice of the peace. His business in this line, however, was mostly confined to the occasional marrying of a couple; what few disputes that did occur were mostly amicably settled, and the others by a knockdown argument, without justice, judge or juror.

After many changes had come and the infirmities of old age were taking hold upon him, he sold

his home and lived with his daughter, Mrs. M. A. Eastman. In 1860, his estimable wife sickened and died, and in November, 1864, the call came and he passed over to join those who had gone on before. William and Sarah Johnston were in the strictest sense pioneer settlers, both upon the Kennebec and Aroostook rivers, experiencing a full share of the hardships and privations known and realized in such a life.

To them were born nine children: one died in infancy, Charles W. Johnston in his early manhood, and Eliza Burpee at her home in Grand Falls, N. B., leaving a husband and a grown up son and two daughters. There are now living in Fort Fairfield the six remaining children, viz: Warren A., Mrs. Mary Waite, now living with her daughter, Mrs. Sarah J. Libby,—Mrs. Frances E. Ellis, Mrs. S. Caroline Estabrook, Mrs. A. C. Paul and Mrs. Margaret A. Eastman.

• GEN. MARK TRAFTON.

Among those identified with the early settlement of Northern Aroostook, was Gen. Mark Trafton, who came from Bangor to Fort Fairfield in the summer of 1843. Gen. Trafton had been a person of prominence in the State before that time. Taking up his residence in Bangor when very young, he was at once engaged in active business, and filled many important official stations. He was captain of a company of cavalry in active service in the

war of 1812, and shortly after the war was made a brigadier-general; he represented his district in the general court in Boston, before the separation from Massachusetts, and afterwards in the State legislature; he acted as land agent for the eastern and northern section of the State before the office was regularly established at Bangor; he was also postmaster at Bangor from 1828 to 1840, and at the time of his appointment to the Fort Fairfield custom house, was a member of the city government at Bangor. As the United States troops were removed at the time of his appointment as custom house officer, he was placed in charge of the government property at this place, and also intrusted with other important duties by the land agent. He seemed to have discharged the various duties to the satisfaction of the government, and the people as well, for he was sent as a representative to the legislature from the Fort Fairfield district, which then included all Northern Aroostook, after a change in the national administration had relieved him from his duties as collector.

From the first Gen. Trafton was strongly impressed with the agricultural possibilities of Aroostook, and had great faith in its future. How well that faith has been justified, our present flourishing community well attests.

He was instrumental in starting the first settlement in the then wilderness township of Letter E,



now Limestone, furnishing the capital to build the first mills, and in connection with B. D. Eastman, who was afterwards joined by G. A. Nourse, carried on an extensive business for some years, and laid the foundation for the present flourishing village and town of Limestone.

When the infirmities of age precluded labor, the general returned to Bangor, where he died in 1857, and was buried in the family lot at Mount Hope, with military and masonic honors.

He held a warm place in the hearts of all the first settlers of the town. Many of them remembered with gratitude, his words of encouragement, and his substantial aid in tiding over a hard place.

DANIEL LIBBY, ESQ.

Among the pioneers in Aroostook, the name of Daniel Libby should have a permanent place. He was born in Winslow, Me., March 25th, 1805, and at the age of twenty-four removed to Houlton; after remaining there ten years, in 1843 he came to Fort Fairfield, and here both Mr. Libby and his family made many lifelong friends. In 1847 he decided to remove to Bradford. Maria, the eldest daughter, had married Mark Trafton of Limestone, and other members of the family had formed associations that were in the future to identify them with our county. Mr. Libby only remained a short time in Bradford, and then removed to Limestone, where the remainder of his days



were spent. He was a respected and influential citizen. Twice he was elected to serve the people of his district in the State legislature; time after time he was elected to town offices, and for many years was postmaster of Limestone.

Mr. Libby went on through life making friends, because he was friendly. He was a useful, worthy and reliable citizen, respected by all who knew him.

He died at the residence of his son, Amos B. Libby in Fort Fairfield, October 3d, 1868.

He married twice, and was the father of twelve children. His daughters married well, and his sons proved worthy and respected citizens; one of them, Mr. Amos B. Libby, was born while he was making his home in Fort Fairfield, March 4th, 1846. When about eighteen years of age he entered the store of Hon. Isaac Hacker as clerk. Here he remained for nine years, faithful and in the full confidence of his employers. Then he became a partner in the business with Mr. J. F. Hacker, under the firm name of Hacker and Libby. In 1873 he was married to Miss Sarah J. Waite; this union was a happy one, he proving a kind and loving husband and father, a good citizen and an upright and honorable man. All who came in contact with him felt the influence of his pure and noble character. After eighteen months of gradually failing health, on the 5th day of June, 1887, he went to join children, father, mother and friends who had

gone before, leaving a widow and three loving children, two daughters and a son, Jerre, who is proving a great comfort and blessing to his mother and sisters. He graduated from the Fort Fairfield high school in 1891, and is now pursuing a collegiate course in Bowdoin college, with every prospect of a happy, prosperous and influential future before him.

#### THE PARSONS FAMILY.

Levi Parsons, youngest child of John Parsons and Polly Parsons, was born in Canton, Me., Dec. 25th, 1823. He was given the name of his uncle, his father's brother, Levi Parsons, who was a prominent clergyman and revivalist, in the state of New Hampshire. One of the early histories of New Hampshire spoke of this clergyman as a leading divine of the state and a great preacher. He is undoubtedly the same divine to whom ex-Vice President Morton's mother was related, as the biography of Mr. Morton says that he was named Levi Parsons Morton for his mother's brother, a former eminent clergyman of New Hampshire. This branch of the family of Parsons came from England in the early days of the colonies, settled in New Hampshire and extended into Massachusetts and New York, while a portion came to the then province of Maine.

John Parsons was born in New Hampshire, but spent the early part of his life in Cambridge, Mass.,

when he came to Oxford county in this state; here he married Polly Hanniford. To them were born ten children, Levi Parsons, the subject of this sketch, being the youngest.

Levi's parents, when he was a small boy, moved from Oxford to Sangerville, Piscataquis county, where he grew to manhood. He attended the public schools in Sangerville and Foxcroft, completing his education at Foxcroft academy. He was a classmate of the late Hon. A. G. Lebroke of Foxcroft, who remembered him well as a brilliant young man of fine intellect, noble character, ambitious, and a leader in all his classes. Thus possessing a liberal education for those days, which he continually added to in after life, he had at his command a rare fund of information upon nearly all subjects of importance. His interest in educational matters proved of great value to his family of children when he settled in a new neighborhood remote from schools.

While young Levi was finishing his education in Foxcroft, the spirit of migration was taking some of the older citizens of his neighborhood to the new settlement in the northern part of the State, called Fort Fairfield. Among these was Freeman Ellis, the miller at Sangerville village, or Carleton's Mills, as it was then called. Mr. Ellis, also of Puritanical stock, being a descendant of Governor Bradford and Dr. Fuller of the Plymouth colony,

possessing something of the spirit of adventure and pluck of his early ancestors, started with his family, a pioneer, into the wilderness of northern Maine, making a "clearing" at Maple Grove, in the present thriving town of Fort Fairfield. Previous to Mr. Ellis leaving Sangerville, however, Levi had become acquainted with the miller's daughter, Lydia, a brilliant young lady of fine character and personal charms. Lydia set about her work with zeal in the new country, laboring to make pioneer life more like that of the older town from which she had gone, and collecting the settlers' children, taught the first school ever held on what was called the "center road" in Fort Fairfield. Her pioneer work was comparatively short, as Levi followed in a few years, and, renewing his acquaintance, they were married in Fort Fairfield, June 7th, 1848. They then took their long, difficult journey back to Sangerville. Here they resided until 1860, when they moved with their family of four boys to Fort Fairfield, to establish a permanent home in the Aroostook valley. He soon found a desirable location on a new farm in the adjoining plantation, now Easton, on the stage route from Fort Fairfield to Houlton.

Here the remainder of his days were spent, on the farm in Easton. A first-class mechanic, he worked in his carpenter shop when not engaged on the farm, thus giving his boys the advantage of



a trade which they used to good effect in starting in life. An inveterate worker, he was farmer or carpenter during the day, and teacher for his children in the long winter evenings, until they were large enough to go away to school, when he would sacrifice everything to keep them there, caring less for accumulating property than for giving his children an education and proper training for the business of life. Neither did he neglect their spiritual training. A devout Christian himself, he surrounded his family with religious influence, and long before the new settlement could boast of a schoolhouse, religious services were frequently held at his house on the Sabbath day.

Always courteous and thoughtful of the welfare of others, he was a good neighbor, kind husband and devoted father. As a citizen he was always right on all moral questions, and his influence felt where he resided. Not possessing a strong constitution, however, clearing the forest and making a new farm proved too much for him physically, and becoming broken down in health he died at his home in Easton, March 1st, 1890. He died as he had lived, in the faith, and all felt at his death that a good man had passed away. Especially do his children remember his tireless energy in instilling into their young minds moral and religious lessons, and the possibilities of the future; the long winter evening lessons of both father and mother



between the long intervals of schooling in that pioneer country are remembered with deepest gratitude. Such men and women at the heads of families go far to make us as a people what we are—self-reliant, energetic, and in many respects the noblest nation upon earth.

The children of Levi and Lydia Parsons were, Levi Lendall Parsons, born at Sangerville, Maine, January 14th, 1850. He married Miss Lottie Parsons of Easton, Maine, September 11th, 1870. She died at Houlton, Maine, November 9th, 1870, and he married Laura St. Clair at Bath, Maine, May 22d, 1874. He has been one of the most successful master builders and mechanics in New England, and has also been engaged in the wholesale and retail lumber business, and is now largely interested as an owner and officer in an important electric company. He resides in Boston, and is a prominent business man in that city.

Freeman Kendall Parsons, born at Sangerville, Me., May 17, 1851, died at Easton, September 10, 1864.

Willis Ellis Parsons, born at Sangerville, May 16th, 1853, was married to Miss Agnes Gilman, youngest daughter of R. D. Gilman, Esq., of Foxcroft, Me., October 23, 1890. He is now a prominent lawyer of the State, practicing at Foxcroft, where he resides. A brief sketch of his life is given elsewhere in this book.

John Wilbur Parsons, born at Sangerville December 9th, 1854, married Miss Annie Burleigh at Cliftondale, Mass., June 15th, 1892. They now reside at Cliftondale, where he is successfully engaged in the retail lumber business. He is also a very superior mechanic.

Clarence Vanderlyn Parsons, born at Sangerville January 18, 1857, was educated for the ministry, completing his education at the theological seminary at Stanfordville, on the Hudson. He is a successful, growing preacher, and a young man of ability. He married Lula E. Northrop, at Lakeville, N. Y., February, 1883. Their children are Verna Agnes and Leon L. Parsons. He is now located at Lubec in this state.

Lizzie C. Parsons, born at Fort Fairfield, July 7, 1861, married Frank DeLaite, January 2d, 1879, at Easton, Me. They now reside at Cliftondale, near Boston, Mass., and she is the happy mother of two bright children, Willis Ellis Delaite, born at Easton November 6th, 1880, and Maude Angela, born December 9th, 1883.

Leslie E. Parsons, born at Easton June 16, 1866, the youngest in the family, is now engaged successfully in business for himself, also at Cliftondale, he being last, but not least, in a family which remains true to its early teachings and represents in its members nobility of character, temperance and sobriety. Here Lydia Ellis Parsons, widow

of Levi Parsons, at present makes her home, happy in being surrounded by her children, her family, reared in Northern Aooostook with such care, motherly anxiety and prayerful tenderness, proving in return a blessing in her declining years.

CAPT. ELBRIDGE W. WAITE.

Mr. Elbridge W. Waite was born in Peru, Oxford county, Me., October 22d, 1815, of an ancestry dating back to the fifteenth century. They were identified with the early history of our country, taking part in the Revolutionary war and the war of 1812 and 1814, and one of them was captain of one of the transports, and aided in the capture of Quebec in 1759.

At about twenty years of age he went to Winthrop, Me., to learn a trade; while there he was chosen captain of a military company. At the time of the call for troops to defend the disputed territory, he came to this county.

In 1843 he married Mary, eldest daughter of William Johnston, Esq., and with his brother in law, Almon S. Richards, built a double tenement house, which he occupied as a home until the time of his death. It is now occupied by Messrs. Caleb Bartlett and Geo. McNalley.

To them were born seven children, four of whom are now living: Almon W. of Portland, Stephen P. of Andover, N. B., Sarah J. (Mrs. Libby) of this village, and Cassius I. Waite of Tacoma, Washing-

ton. Mr. Waite was an industrious, reliable and worthy citizen. He was earnest in all works to elevate and improve society, and an active and influential temperance leader. His influence was felt in improving and moulding society.

For some time his health had been failing, and in June, 1866, the end came. A well spent, successful life work was ended, and mourning friends stood around all that was mortal of a kind husband and father, a worthy and devoted citizen, and a true friend.

#### ALMON S. RICHARDS.

Almon S. Richards was born in Lincolnville, Me., October 28th, 1817, and died at his home in Maple Grove (Fort Fairfield) June 30, 1884.

Mr. Richards remained at home with his parents, working on the farm and improving every opportunity within his reach to secure an education, until he was of age. Only a few months after his majority the dispute about the northeastern boundary culminated in a call for soldiers to drive off the trespassers and take formal possession of the Aroostook country. Not drawing a ticket in the first draft, he did not wait for a second, but promptly took the place of a drafted man, and was among the first to arrive upon the scene of action.

In July, 1844, he was married to Frances E. Johnston, daughter of William Johnston, Esq., who had moved from Kennebec county to the Aroostook



river several years before. To them were born eight children: Mrs. Mary Hilton, Mrs. Carrie E. Jewett, Miss Agnes J. Richards, Mr. George W. Richards of Houlton, Horace G. Richards, of the firm of Thurlough, Richards and Co., and Mrs. Alice French, and one died in infancy. He held several important offices; was local land agent and deputy collector of customs. He was a successful, prosperous farmer.

For more than a year before his decease he was a confirmed invalid, and at times a great sufferer. Partly to keep his mind from his sufferings, he devoted much time to reading; the Bible and Josephus were always at hand, and at times, almost lost to his surroundings, he would with interest peruse them.

Almon S. Richards politically was a Whig, and upon the breaking up of the Whig party he became a conscientious and ardent Republican. He was able to give a reason for his political faith, and to defend any position he took. He was a man of positive and decided opinions, an earnest Christian, a reliable and trustworthy citizen, a kind neighbor and a devoted and loving husband and father.

REV. BENJAMIN D. EASTMAN.

In 1842 Benjamin D. Eastman, of the East Maine conference, located and visited the Arcostook for the purpose of selecting a location, and in the following spring moved with his family to Letter D plantation, and located on the State road about one



and one half miles this side of the west line of the township. Besides his young family, Jesse S. Averill, Stephen E. Phipps and — Chase accompanied him.

Mr. Eastman devoted himself to clearing up a new farm, and in 1848 associated himself with Gen. Mark Trafton in building mills at Limestone. Subsequently he disposed of his interests in this county and removed to New Hampshire, where he died several years ago.

OTIS EASTMAN,

A brother of Benjamin D., came to this town soon after his brother, and proved a successful farmer, raising up a good family of children.

One son, George W. Eastman, was in the Union army and did good service for his country. He now resides in this town, a worthy and respected citizen.

STEPHEN E. PHIPPS

Was for more than twenty years an active citizen, a good mechanic and industrious farmer, and succeeded in acquiring some property. He bought the original Tucker place at the mouth of the Maple Grove road, married Miss Martha Spooner, and to them were born six children. After several years he sold his farm and bought what has since been known as the Houghton farm, on the north side of the Arcostock river, and after the death of his wife sold again and bought the mill

property at the lower village. This he subsequently sold, and moved to Florida, where he soon died.

Mr. Chase did not remain long enough to identify himself with the interests of this town.

MR. JESSE S. AVERILL.

Mr. Jesse S. Averill proved to be the representative pioneer of the party. From the first he was a steady, reliable, industrious young man. He soon became acquainted with, and subsequently married Miss Emily Hoyt, and commenced a humble but successful pioneer life. To them were born ten children, of whom eight have grown to man and womanhood, and have proved an honor to their worthy and influential parents. Three sons reside in this town, and one daughter—Mrs. John Currier—has until the last year also made her home here. The family are now living in Staunton, Va., and are much missed from their circle of friends in Fort Fairfield, where they, with the others, have been doing their part to add to its influence and prosperity.

The hardships and privations of early life told on this worthy couple, and yet Mr. Averill lived to the good age of seventy-one years, and his devoted wife some two years longer, and died in June, 1892.

Among the worthy and industrious, hard working pioneers of 1844, the name of Jesse S. Averill will always occupy an honorable and respected

place. Among the life toilers who labored hard and long to train up their active families for usefulness and respectability, and add to the wealth and prosperity of our town, Jesse S. Averill and Emily H. Averill will ever be remembered and counted among the first.

MR. ADDISON POWERS.

Addison Powers was born in Wilton, Maine, September 15th, 1810. In 1825 his father removed his family to Carthage, and here his home was made until his majority. He married, and in 1839 or '40 removed to the town of Fayette, where he remained until the spring of 1843, when he came to the Aroostook and took land in what is now the Maple Grove settlement. He built a house near the Bryant mills, having bought an interest in the mill of Mr. Haines. He carried on the mills for two years and then sold out and removed to Limestone and worked in the mill for Eastman and Nurse for one year. While there he bought of Mr. Eastman the land taken by him in 1842 on the Presque Isle road in this town and about one mile from the west line. For nearly forty years his home was upon this place.

Since 1888 he has made his home with his son, Mr. Roderick Powers, in the town of Easton.

Among the early pioneers, Mr. Powers made many true and earnest friends, and was regarded as a reliable and trusty citizen. He has experi-

enced a full share of the privations and hardships which were the lot of the early settlers, and has done well his part as one of the useful and influential pioneers of this town. Exposure and hardships have left their marks upon him, and yet after passing the eighty-third milestone, he still seems good for years of enjoyable life.

#### THE ELLIS FAMILY.

Freeman Ellis, senior, was born in Plymouth, Mass, in 1745. Sarah Bradford, daughter of Gideon Bradford, Esq., of Plymouth, and the sixth generation from Gov. William Bradford of the Plymouth Colony, was born in 1748. Freeman Ellis, Esq., their sixth child, was born in Plympton, in 1779, and died in Fort Fairfield, January 13th, 1866.

Lydia Fuller, the sixth generation from Dr. Samuel Fuller, who was a deacon in Rev. Mr. Robinson's church in Holland, and was the first physician and surgeon in New England, was born in Carver, Mass., in 1783. Freeman Ellis, Esq., and Lydia Fuller were married in Hebron, Maine, by Elder Tripp, in 1800. Freeman Ellis, Jr., their eldest son, was married to Eunice Shedd, in January, 1825. In 1842 he visited Fort Fairfield, and in 1844 moved his family here. He was in the best sense a pioneer settler.

Two of his brothers, Isaac F. Ellis and Deacon Frederick Ellis, with their families, soon followed



him. Of Deacon Ellis' family, Viola Christina Maud, in 1870 was married to Hubbard C. Richardson, Lizzie M. was married to Solon Ames, and both with their families are residents of Fort Fairfield.

Capt Osco A. Ellis, the eldest son of Isaac F. and Ruth Ellis, was born in Weld, Maine, in December, 1831. He had prepared himself for the law, and had been admitted to the bar, and was in active practice when the war broke out. He was appointed lieutenant in company E, 1st Maine cavalry. He was a popular and successful officer, always ready for duty, and fearless in the discharge of duty. On the 24th of June, 1864, at St. Mary's Church, he surrendered his commission and his life.

Like the true soldier he was, he ended his days upon the battlefield, and received a soldier's burial one mile west of Charles City Court House, near Wilcox Landing, James Run, Va.

Captain Ellis was a worthy descendant of a Puritan ancestry. He gave his life in defence of that civilization they sought in Holland, but failed to find, and subsequently established upon the bleak and dreary cold New England shore—a civilization that calls no man lord and master, and degrades no human being to servitude and slavery.

His career was short, his work is done, and well done, and though filling an unknown soldier's



grave, he lives in a bright, brilliant and imperishable history of heroic devotion and noble deeds.

CALEB H. ELLIS,

The eldest son of Freeman Ellis, Jr., and Eunice Ellis, and the author of this history, was born in Weld, Me., November 18th, 1825. His school advantages were good. In 1843 he left school to accompany his father to the Aroostook.

Now a new experience, and all the hardships and privations incident to a pioneer life, opened up before him. For eleven years his school was the lumber woods, driving the lumber down the rivers and clearing new lands.

In 1854 he received his first appointment from the Methodist Episcopal Church, as preacher in charge of the Weston and Topsfield charge. At the end of two years he was appointed to Wesley, Crawford and Northfield and in 1857 to Franklin and Sullivan, and in 1860 to East Machias. In 1861 he was elected chaplain of the 11th Maine regiment.

In 1864 he was appointed captain of Co. E, 31st Maine regiment, and on June 7th, 1864, was wounded; on October 7th of the same year he was discharged from the service for total disability on account of his wound. In June, 1867, he had so far recovered as to be able to visit Michigan, and in September of that year joined the Michigan annual conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, and

was appointed to the Pentwater station in that conference. For nearly ten years he was able to do the work of an itinerant Methodist minister, but a constant sufferer from the effects of his injury in the army. In 1757 he was compelled to ask for a supernumary relation, and seek a different climate. A year in Texas and absolute rest made some improvement. Then there was a return to Michigan, and in 1882 he removed to Dakota Territory, where his wife died, and a second marriage, to Mrs. Frances E. Richards, was contracted. While in South Dakota, he was actively engaged in land and loan business, locating settlers upon the public lands, proving them up at the United States land office and prosecuting certain land cases before that office. In 1889 he removed to Washington, D. C., and received an appointment in the 51st congress; in 1891 he removed to Cliftondale, Mass., and in May, 1892, to Fort Fairfield; and in July of that year he commenced the publication of the *Northern Leader*. This was looked upon as a very unpromising field for newspaper enterprise. It had thrice been entered, only to be abandoned after a short and fruitless struggle. It is possible because it was hard, he decided to give it a trial, for he has always found the greatest satisfaction in succeeding where others fail. From his first marriage, to Miss Lydia E. Haines, which occurred in 1849, were born seven children, three of whom are now living,—Arthur W. Ellis, a farmer in Ellisville, South Dakota, Olin H. Ellis, a railroad engineer, Chicago, Illinois, and Mrs. Mellie Kipp, Fort Fairfield. After removing to Dakota, he gave considerable attention to politics, and on the questions which divide the two great par-

ties, he is well posted. Early in life he was an ardent Whig, and through the war an earnest Republican, and to this party still owes allegiance, and is always ready to discuss the principles which have given it the strong hold it has upon the American people; he is a ready, logical and earnest public speaker, and in the west has done good and successful campaign work; and at the age of sixty-nine, with partial paralysis of the left side, and a constant sufferer from the effects of his wound, he performs as much intellectual labor as most men in the prime of life.

MR. ALBION P. WELLINGTON.

Albion P. Wellington, son of General Wellington of Monticello, was born in Albion, Kennebec county, Maine, August 26th, 1817, and was married to Miss Myra G. Foster of Cecper, Maine, June 4th, 1850. Mr. Wellington removed to Fort Fairfield in 1852, and was employed by Col. McClusky in his store until the breaking out of the war. Since 1862 Mr. Wellington has been engaged in trade and scaling lumber; he was for several years one of the selectmen of this town. Under the Buchanan administration he was Custom house officer at this place. He is an influential and reliable citizen; he has been a lifelong Democrat, and has done his party good service.

LAFOREST V. TOWLE

Left his home and commenced for himself on State land, when eighteen years old, where he now lives. In 1862 he enlisted in the army, in the 22d Maine. He was through the thirty days seige at Port Hudson. His enlistment was for nine months, but he served eleven, and then was drafted near

the close of the war. In 1866 he was married to Miss Mary E. Estes. To them were born four children: one deceased, two at home, and Mrs. Clara Parsons of Easton. Mr. and Mrs. Towle have long been members of the Free Baptist Church. For many years Mr. Towle was clerk, and now deacon, and clerk of the quarterly meeting; has held town offices, is a successful farmer, an influential citizen and a prominent member of society.

#### JAMES R. THURLOUGH

Came to the Arrostook in 1858, and located where he now lives, in his beautiful home in Maple Grove. In 1868 he married Miss Olive Marshall. They have one daughter. He is a successful, enterprising farmer; some years ago hard work began to tell upon him, and he consented to accept the Republican nomination for county commissioner. He is now serving on that board in a very acceptable manner. He holds a very prominent place among our reliable and influential citizens. The coming of the Thurlough family to Fort Fairfield in 1868 and '70, was a most valuable accession to the population, not only in those who were then upon the stage of action, but in those who have since come to be among our most active and progressive business men.

#### RODERICK POWERS

At the age of four years came to this town with his parents. At his majority he went to Presque Isle to work, and in 1862, enlisted in the 16th Me. regiment for three years. He was twice wounded. Upon being mustered out of service he returned to this town. In 1867 he married Miss Elizabeth



Hodgdon of New Hampshire, and settled in Easton, Maine, where he has since resided, and made a most excellent farm. To them have been born four children. He holds his deed from the State. He is a member of Kilpatrick Post, G. A. R., and of Frontier Lodge, F. and A. M.

WILLIAM HOUGHTON

Was born in Anson, Maine, 1828. In 1853 he married Miss Dorcas Cutts, and in 1871 moved to this town. Their family consists of a daughter, who is married and lives in California, Edward L., real estate agent in this village, Emmons W., a prosperous farmer in this town, A. D. Houghton, in Atlanta, Ga., and George C., at L. K. Cary and Co's. Mr. Houghton is a successful farmer, a reliable and trustworthy citizen, a member of the Congregational Church. In politics he is a Republican, and takes an interest in all matters of public interest.

WILLIS E. PARSONS.

Willis E. Parsons, third son of Levi Parsons and Lydia Ellis Parsons, was born in Sangerville, Me., May 16th, 1853.

When he was six years old his parents moved from Sangerville into the new country of Aroostook, settling in Fort Fairfield. A few years later his father took up a farm in the adjoining township, Fremont plantation, now the prosperous town of Easton. Here upon the farm Willis E. grew to young manhood, early developing a taste for work as well as play, and an interest in whatever he found to do, which has thus far characterized him through life. His advancement in school was rapid, mastering the common school arithmetic when



only eleven years of age, with like progress in other branches. Leaving the common schools, he attended the high school at Fort Fairfield, the academy of Houlton, now Ricker Classical Institute, and the city academy at Burlington, Vermont; also taking a four years' university course in English.

Mr. Parsons' father being a first-class carpenter as well as a farmer, the young man soon developed into a good mechanic, and taking an interest in that as in everything else, when not teaching or attending school was at work at his trade; first in Houlton, then in Boston and other large cities; he made a study of his business, applying his knowledge in a practical way to his work, and by a study of architecture soon became master of the situation, and at eighteen years of age had charge of work in Boston and its neighboring towns. It was when in Waterville, Me., that he won the reputation of being "as good a mechanic as stood on the banks of the Kennebec." Going upon the ground that all honest employment is honorable, he threw his energy into his work, and is still proud of the fact that when a boy he learned a trade, the best possible capital for a young man who must rely upon his own resources to start in life. His sympathies are always with the laboring classes. Possessing a laudable ambition, a great reader as well as a close student, in looking for a higher field he naturally turned to one of the professions, and while still in charge of a crew of mechanics began reading Blackstone and Kent. He early developed oratorical powers, and when in Burlington academy, at graduating exercises, the *Burlington Sentinel* said: "'Motives to Study,' an oration by Willis E.

Parsons, was one of the very best efforts of the occasion; in fact, we have never witnessed a more commendable effort on the part of a student so young. That Mr. Parsons possesses an active, sound reasoning and finely balanced brain, together with much more than ordinary elocutionary powers, was clearly evident to everyone present. His oration would have reflected credit upon a college graduate. He measured and modulated his sentences like a veteran orator, and fully deserved the storm of applause bestowed upon him."

Having a taste for public speaking, while his companions were engaged in other amusements, he was at the lecture room, listening to a Wendell Phillips, a Beecher, or some of our own speakers equally capable, perhaps, of swaying the multitude. In the summer of 1877, hearing that almost matchless orator, Hon. A. G. Lebroke of Foxcroft, since deceased, he became deeply interested in his wonderful command of language and splendid oratory, and leaving Waterville, where he was then reading law, entered the office of Mr. Lebroke as a student in the fall of that year. He was admitted to the Piscataquis bar, September term, 1878, and soon after formed a co-partnership with Mr. Lebroke, which continued as the law firm of Lebroke and Parsons for many years, or until Mr. Parsons was elected State attorney for the county of Piscataquis, when the firm was dissolved. Mr. Parsons then erected one of the finest law offices in the State, nearly opposite on the same street. Here he may be found at any time busy at work, and as a leading member of the Piscataquis bar, engaged in a large and lucrative practice, from which he

has already acquired a comfortable competence. He has occupied many positions of public trust, and been continually in town office since he began the practice of law, and no man works harder for the development of his own town and county than he. He is one of the young men who believe in the future of Maine. Although with his busy life he finds little time for the old pleasure of shaping architectural lines of symmetry, some of the finest residences in Piscataquis county have been remodeled or built new under plans furnished for personal friends by Mr. Parsons. As late as 1892, the Congregational Church of Foxcroft and Dover expended a large sum of money, making their church compare favorably with the finest in the State, under his plans and designs as chairman of the committee. Interested in educational matters, he has been frequently called upon to deliver addresses upon educational topics, and has found time until late years to serve upon the school board of his town, and is now connected with that time honored institution, Foxcroft academy, as secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Parsons was unanimously nominated for county attorney, and elected by a large majority, in the summer of 1884, serving in 1885-6-7-8-9 and '90, receiving each re-nomination by acclamation, and running ahead of his ticket. He showed great ability as a criminal lawyer, and conducted the business of the State with a firm and steady hand. The laws were well enforced, and he retired from the office after a long service without having a single paper that he had drawn quashed. Since that time he has been the energetic member from Piscataquis of the Republican State committee. He has been

on the stump as a campaign orator in every campaign since 1880, early being quoted by the press as one of the most eloquent men in Maine. He is not an office seeker, and is averse to political trickery and the methods of the demagogue; he is an earnest Republican, a determined champion of what he believes to be right, and to his friends, loyal to the core. Socially and in business matters his warm friends are found in all political parties. In 1892, after the close of a sharp political contest in this county, the *Piscataquis Observer* said, "No man in this State has worked harder, or deserves more credit, than Hon. W. E. Parsons of Foxcroft, member of the State committee, in this county; he has worked early and late, and has filled the places of several speakers who have been absent, and no man has made better or more convincing speeches.

"Mr. Parsons has been actively engaged in Piscataquis county politics for the past twelve years, is a thorough-going Republican, and like the sincere, honorable man that he is, always works faithfully and unselfishly for the good of his party and the advancement of those great principles of rational import in which he earnestly believes, an able orator and sound logician. On the stump before the people he makes strong and convincing arguments in behalf of American industries, the elevation and continued prosperity of American labor, and in support and defence of the progressive policy of the Republican party. In this campaign he has proved to be one of the most popular speakers in the State, as well as an effective organizer. Though a strong partisan, Mr. Parsons never takes politics into his business or social relations, and has in his



large clientage many persons opposed to him in politics. In all the party organizations he counts warm personal friends, whose confidence he enjoys to the fullest extent."

His temperance principles are pronounced and sincere, never having drank a glass of intoxicating liquor in his life; his religious preferences are Congregational, and he has been a member of that church in Foxcroft for many years, joining on a letter from the Methodist denomination in Houlton, where the right hand of fellowship was extended to him, at the age of seventeen, by Rev. H. W. Bolton. He is a prominent Odd Fellow and a Mason, and has frequently been called upon to deliver addresses at the gatherings of these orders in different parts of the State. On the 23d of October, 1860, he was united in marriage to Agnes, the accomplished daughter of R. D. Gilman, Esq., of Foxcroft, the union being a most happy one.

We give a cut of their elegant residence, situated in a delightful quarter of that beautiful town, where they socially enjoy their friends, and the quiet felicity of a happy home.

#### THE ROLLINS FAMILY.

Ephraim Rollins was born in Sharon, in 1800, and in 1820 married Lydia Ellis of Weld. To them were born eight children, four of whom are now living. Mr. Rollins moved to the Aroostook in 1855 and settled in Easton. In 1864 his wife died; subsequently he married Mrs. Susan Ellis, widow of the late Isaac F. Ellis, and resided in Maple Grove until his death in 1886. His oldest son, Axel Issachar Rollins, was born in 1821, and in 1842 married Lovinia Dolley of Weld. In 1854 he removed to Fort Fairfield and bought the Hunt place, two miles from this village on the



Presque Isle road. Of his large family, Wallace Rollins is on the farm where he first settled with his father; Charles A. is a blacksmith in this village and Mrs. Angelia Rich, Mrs. Florence E. Foss and Mrs. Laura E. Guild are residents of this town.

A few years ago there came a great affliction to Mr. Rollins in the death of the companion of his early manhood and mother of his children. He is still upon the land where he located in 1855, and out of which he has made a delightful, pleasant home. Bradford Rollins, his next youngest brother, also came to this town and located in Maple Grove, where he died several years ago. Of his family, Mr. Frederick Rollins, with his family, resides, in this village.

#### FLANNERY.

Thomas Flannery came to the Aroostook in his boyhood, before the Aroostook war; he was a member of J. W. White's family, his mother by a second marriage having taken that name. In his early manhood he married into the Lovely family, and to them were born nine children—three sons and six daughters. Isaac, William, and Daniel Flannery are citizens of Fort Fairfield, and three of the daughters have married husbands who are citizens of this town.

#### BENONI F. DURGIN

Was born in Vermont in 1825; he was a captain in the old 6th Massachusetts, General Butler's favorite regiment. He was married in 1835, and since 1860 has resided in Aroostook county. He is a painter and paper hanger by trade, he is a member of Eastern Frontier masonic lodge, of which he has been master. He is a quiet, unobtrusive man, a good citizen and a loyal friend.

## JOSEPH NICHOLS.

Joseph Nichols, born in South Berwick in 1828, was married in 1858, and in 1860 removed to Fort Fairfield. He now resides in Easton; he is a reliable member of the society of Friends. In politics he is Republican, and has for years been a correspondent for the local newspapers.

## HON. WASHINGTON LONG

Was born in Buckfield, in Oxford county in this State, April 6, 1811, and until he was thirty years of age Buckfield was his home. As a boy, he lived with an older brother, Zadoc, the father of Hon. John D. Long, who served Massachusetts so acceptably as governor. After attaining his majority he was engaged in business in Buckfield, and therein acquired many friends, and gained great esteem as an honest and conscientious business man. He came to Fort Fairfield about 1850, and thereafter Fort Fairfield was his home until his death, except the period of eight years spent at Eastport as collector of customs of the Passamaquoddy customs district. For many years he was engaged in general business in this town and vicinity, and also in lumbering, having formed a co-partnership with the late Hon. Jesse Drew, under the firm name of Long and Drew. He served in the executive council of Gov. Lot Morrill, with credit to himself and his district. Later Mr. Long for one session represented the Fort Fairfield class in the State legislature. In religious belief a Congregationalist, he was always true to his denominational creed, and a liberal supporter of his church. Mr. Long spent the latest days of his life here in the erection of a hall, which is to this day a memorial of his regard for the town, which for so many years was proud to claim him as one of its foremost citizens.

## JOHN DORSEY,

Who located near where the Canadian Pacific railway station now stands, was among the very first to settle on the Aroostook river. Of his immediate descendants, William and Miles Dorsey of this town are now living; his eldest son, Edward, was the first child born on this river; two of his sons—Miles F. and Edward Dorsey—are among the active, prosperous business men of our village. All of the large number of this name, identified with the business interests of this town, were of this family.

## CHARLES R. PAUL

Came to Fort Fairfield in 1844, and for many years worked at the blacksmith trade. Mr. Paul is a conscientious and devoted Democrat, and quite active for a man of his years.

Mrs. Agnes C. Paul is a most devoted Republican. She has been a very active temperance worker. She has held many important public trusts; in 1849 was appointed assistant postmaster and given sole charge of the office. In 1877 she was appointed postmaster, and held the office for nine years. She is correspondent for the New England press association, president of the State non-partisan W. C. T. U., and was appointed by Gov. Burleigh as one of the board of world's fair managers.

## JOSEPH FINDLAND

Was born in this town in 1852. His father, Patrick Findland, came to the Aroostook at an early day. Joseph was married in 1877, and in 1881 his wife died, leaving two children. One year later there was a second marriage. There are seven children. The eldest two, a son and daughter, are attending the advanced school in this village. Mr. Findland lives upon his farm four miles west of the village. He is a successful farmer, a reliable

influential, and much respected citizen of the town.

SAMUEL W. CRAM

Was born in East Livermore, in 1826, and was married to Emma R. McLaughlin in 1858, and in 1859 came to this town, and took the land upon which he now lives. To them were born ten children, nine of whom are now living. Four, two sons and two daughters, make up his family, his wife having died fifteen years ago. With the assistance of his daughter, he has kept the family together. One son is in the west, and the other one in Massachusetts. Mr. Cram is a successful and prosperous farmer, and has made a most delightful home.

JOSEPH A. CONANT

Was born in 1830, and came to the Aroostook in 1845, with his father, Col. Isaac Conant, being then fifteen years old. At the age of eighteen he commenced for himself, and married Miss Julia Johnston. To them were born eleven children. In September, 1862, he enlisted in the 22d Maine regiment, and served to the end of his term of enlistment. Since then he has resided on the farm where his father first located. In 1878 his wife died, and soon after, to keep his family together, he decided to enter into a second marriage. Three sons and two daughters now reside in this town. Mr. Conant has one of the fine farms that may be found in Fort Fairfield. He has made a most delightful home, and in every way has made a success in life. He is one of our independent and prosperous farmers. A fine likeness of him may be found in this volume.



## GEORGE W. HILTON

Was born in Exeter, in 1833. He was in the war of the Rebellion, and after its close came to Fort Fairfield, and has since resided in the west and in Massachusetts. He is now living with his third wife. He is now engaged in carriage painting, and has one of the largest and best arranged painting establishments in Northern Aroostook. After nine years in the west, with three years in Massachusetts, and a trial of Washington, D. C., and other places, his first choice is the Aroostook valley.

## MR. LUTHER K. CARY

Was born in Turner in 1838, and in 1859 was married to Miss Ellen Bradford, the eighth generation from Gov. Bradford of the Plymouth Colony. He was a faithful soldier in the Union army. Their family consist of four children, Edward K. Cary, Mrs. E. L. Houghton, Mrs. W. S. Davidson and Lela A. Cary.

Mr. Cary is a successful business man and a good citizen. His wife is a talented woman, an influential temperance worker and a member of the Congregational Church.

## DEA. DANIEL FOSTER

Was born in Montville, Me., in 1802. At the age of twenty-five he married Miss Sarah Hussey. They were earnest and devoted members of the Calvinist Baptist Church. To them were born eleven children, four of whom died in infancy. With his family Dea. Foster took up his residence in Ft. Fairfield in May, 1860. He was an active business man, interested in political affairs, held several town offices, was deputy sheriff, and deputy collector of customs. He was an influential member of society, a consistent member and deacon of the



Calvinist Baptist Church. Up to the time of his death his influence in church and society was a power for good, and his decease was in the family and community deeply regretted. Of this large and influential family two only are identified with Fort Fairfield interests: H. L. Foster, who in 1851 married Miss Zipra Bishop, and now resides near the mill that he built in company with his father, in the southeast part of the town, and Mrs. J. B. Robbins, who is one of the active Christian workers of the present day.

J. B. ROBBINS

Was born in Hope, Maine, in 1830. At the age of twenty-five he married Harriet L. Walker of East Union. To them were born two children, who died in childhood. In September, 1861, he moved to this town; in two and one half months his wife died. In March, 1863, a second marriage was entered into, with Lizzie S. Foster; to them were born four daughters; two died in childhood; Myrtle G. married Bertram Ames, and Alice Pearle is now enjoying the advantages of our excellent school system. Mr. Robbins was one of the charter members of Eastern Frontier masonic lodge, being senior warden two years and master one year. He was an interested and active member until his impaired hearing deprived him of the advantages of the lodge.

GEORGE E. CALDWELL.

George E. Caldwell was born in Oxford county in 1842. He was a member of Co. E. 12th Maine regiment and served from 1861 to 1865. He was at New Orleans, in the Shenandoah Valley, and before Petersburg. He was fortunate in escaping being wounded and prison life, but came home with the seeds of disease that has afflicted him and

from which he is now totally disabled. In 1876 he married Miss Mellie McBride, and in 1887 removed to Fort Fairfield. His family consists of a wife and one daughter. His home is on a small farm adjoining the village incorporation.

CAPT. AZIAL W. PUTMAN.

Capt. Putman comes of the old Revolutionary stock and is true to his ancestry. He was borne in Houlton.

He was captain of Co. G, 22d Maine, and faithfully served until the end of the war. Capt. Putman is married and has resided in Fort Fairfield since; he is a worthy and influential citizen, is a member of Kilpatrick Post G. A. R., and is now deputy sheriff and an active and reliable Republican.

RICHARD L. BAKER

Was born in Woodstock, N. B., in 1827; when at but five years old his parents removed to Houlton, where he continued to live till 1870. He married Miss Abia A. Perkins in 1848; she is still living. Since 1870 their home has been in this village. Mr. Baker was elected to the board of selectmen in 1876, and has filled that office for fourteen years. He was elected sheriff in 1878 and under Cleveland's first administration he was deputy collector of customs. He is an earnest, public spirited man. On religious subjects a liberalist and president of Fort Fairfield liberal league. A fine likeness of Mr. Baker appears in this history.

There is a long list of honored names, among them Cummings, Slocomb, Osborne, Collins, Bishop, Sterling, Richardson, Gordon, Spooner, Orcutt and Fisher, who should have been noticed, but the limit of this book allows but this brief mention.



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